



74th General Session
Paris, 21-26 May 2006

Final Report 2006



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



74th General Session
Paris, 21-26 May 2006

Final Report
2006

CONTENTS

	Page	Paragraph
List of abbreviations	xii	
Introduction	3	1 - 8
<hr/> ≡ SUNDAY 21 MAY 2006 ≡ <hr/>		
Opening Session	3	9 - 10
Film Projection	4	11 - 12
Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards	4	13 - 15
<hr/> ≡ MONDAY 22 MAY 2006 ≡ <hr/>		
<u>FIRST PLENARY SESSION</u>	4	16 - 17
• Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	4	18 - 19
• Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 76th and 77th General Sessions	4	20
• Nomination of the Credentials Commission	5	21 - 22
• Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005	5	23 - 36
• Composition of Working Groups	6	37 - 38
<u>SECOND PLENARY SESSION</u>		
ITEM I: Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands	6	39 - 43
Discussion on Technical Item I	7	44 - 58
• Minute's silence in memory of the Director General of the WHO	9	59
<u>THIRD PLENARY SESSION</u>		
ITEM II: Economic and social justification of investment in animal health and zoonoses	10	60 - 63
Discussion on Technical Item II	11	64 - 76
• Planned Working Programme for 2007	13	77 - 79

	Page	Paragraph
Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE	13	80 - 81
IDF	13	82 - 87
WAVLD	14	88 - 91
WHO	14	92 - 100
FAO	15	101 - 112
WTO	16	113 - 118
World Bank	17	119 - 121

≡ TUESDAY 23 MAY 2006 ≡

[FOURTH PLENARY SESSION](#)

Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)

WVA	18	122 - 123
IABs	18	124 - 128
IFAH	19	129 - 132
IFAP	20	133 - 134
IMS	20	135 - 140

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

• Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	21	141 - 162
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV <i>Adoption of the fifth edition of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>	30	163

[FIFTH PLENARY SESSION](#)

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

• Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	30	164 - 192
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI <i>Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries</i>	36	193
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII <i>Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries</i>	37	194
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII <i>Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease</i>	37	195
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX <i>Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries</i>	37	196
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXX <i>Study of the Procedure to Expedite the Process for the Recognition of a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone during an Outbreak of FMD in a Member Country</i>	37	197

	Page	Paragraph
Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)		
• Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission		
– Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety	37	198 - 216
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXII <i>Animal Production Food Safety</i>	41	217
– Working Group on Animal Welfare	41	218 - 221
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV <i>Animal Welfare</i>	43	222

≡ WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2006 ≡

[SIXTH PLENARY SESSION](#)

Presentations by International Organisations having signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)

FEI	43	223 - 226
ILRI	44	227 - 228
Report on Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006	44	229 - 239
Animal Health Status in Member Countries	51	240 - 253
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I <i>Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006</i>	52	254

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

• Working Group on Wildlife Diseases	52	255 - 284
--------------------------------------	----	-----------

[SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION](#)

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

• Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)	59	285 - 302
--	----	-----------

≡ THURSDAY 25 MAY 2006 ≡

[EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION](#)

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

• Biological Standards Commission	76	303 - 338
-----------------------------------	----	-----------

	Page	Paragraph
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXI <i>Adoption of three draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>	86	339
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXII <i>Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries</i>	86	340 - 341
Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)		
• Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)	86	342 - 349
Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions		
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX <i>Amendments to the Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>	90	350
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI <i>Amendments to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>	90	351
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIII <i>List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance</i>	90	352
Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIV (Technical Item I) <i>Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands</i>	90	353 - 354
Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXV (Technical Item II) <i>Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses</i>	91	355 - 356
 <u>NINTH PLENARY SESSION</u>		
Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions		
• Regional Commission for Africa	91	357 - 358
• Regional Commission for the Americas	92	359- 360
• Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	92	361 - 363
• Regional Commission for Europe	92	364 - 365
• Regional Commission for the Middle East	92	366 - 368
Distribution of animal health status certificates	92	369
Dates of the 75th General Session (May 2007)	92	370
Technical Items for the 75th General Session (May 2007)	93	371
Technical Items for the 76th General Session (May 2008)	93	372 - 373

FRIDAY 26 MAY 2006

	Page	Paragraph
<u>FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION</u>	93	374
• Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005 and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. II	93	375 - 377
• OIE Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year (1 January - 31 December 2005)	93	378 - 385
• Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor and Adoption of the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. III	94	386 - 392
• Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. IX	95	393 - 394
• Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. VIII	95	395 - 396
• 2006 Budget	96	397 - 403
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. X <i>Work Programme of the Director General for the Period 2006-2008</i>	96	404 - 412
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. VI <i>Relating to the setting up of a new financial mechanism for the Regional Representations</i>	97	413 - 415
• Proposed 2007 Contributions Scale and 2007 Budget Estimates and Adoption of Draft Resolutions Nos IV and V	97	416 - 425
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XI <i>Planned Working Programme for 2007</i>	98	426 - 427
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XII <i>Authorising the Director General to carry out a study and, if appropriate, propose, in May 2007, a change in the number of contribution categories in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the Fourth Strategic Plan</i>	98	428 - 429
• Agreement between the OIE and AOAD and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIII	98	430 - 431
• Agreement between the OIE and ECOWAS and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIV	99	432 - 433
• Agreement between the OIE and WAVLD and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XV	99	434 - 435
• Agreement between the OIE and ICMM and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVI	99	436 - 437

	Page	Paragraph
• Agreement between the OIE and IEC and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVII	99	438 - 439
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII <i>Terms of Reference of the OIE Regional Commissions</i>	99	440 - 442
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX <i>Modification of the composition of the OIE Laboratories Commission</i>	99	443 - 444
• Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXVI <i>Composition of the Sub Commission for the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign</i>	100	445 - 446
• OIE Sub-Regional Bureaux	100	447

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

• Verification of the quorum for elections	100	448
• Election of the Members of the Regional Commissions	100	449
• Election of the Members of the Specialist Commissions		
– Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	101	450
– Biological Standards Commission	102	451
– Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission	103	452
– Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	104	453
• Election of the President of the International Committee	105	454
• Election of the Vice-President of the International Committee	105	455
• Election of the Members of the Administrative Commission and Auditors	106	456

TENTH PLENARY SESSION

• Transfer of office to the new President	107	457 - 459
• Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report	108	460- 461
• Closing Ceremony	108	462

RESOLUTIONS

<u>No. I</u>	Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006	113
<u>No. II</u>	Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005	114
<u>No. III</u>	Approval of the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2005)	115
<u>No. IV</u>	Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2007	116

	Page
No. V	Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 81st Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2007) 117
No. VI	Setting up a new financial mechanism for the Regional Representations 118
No. VII	Authorisation to affect part of the surplus of the 79th Financial Year of the OIE to the 2006 budget 118
No. VIII	Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor 120
No. IX	Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings 121
No. X	Director General's Work Programme for 2006-2008 122
No. XI	Work programme for 2007 123
No. XII	Authorisation given to the Director General to undertake a study and, if necessary, to propose, in May 2007 a modification to the number of categories of contributions in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the 4th Strategic Plan 124
No. XIII	Agreement between OIE and AOAD 125
No. XIV	Agreement between OIE and ECOWAS 126
No. XV	Agreement between OIE and WAVLD 127
No. XVI	Agreement between OIE and ICMM 128
No. XVII	Agreement between OIE and IEC 129
No. XVIII	Terms of Reference of the Regional Commissions of the OIE 130
No. XIX	Modification of the composition of the Laboratories Commission 135
No. XX	Amendments to the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i> 136
No. XXI	Amendments to the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> 137
No. XXII	Animal Production Food Safety 138
No. XXIV	Animal Welfare 140
No. XXV	Adoption of the fifth edition of the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i> 142
No. XXVI	Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries 143

	Page
No. XXVII Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries	146
No. XXVIII Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease	148
No. XXIX Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries	151
No. XXX Study of the Procedure to Expedite the Process for the Recognition of a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone during an Outbreak of FMD in a Member Country	153
No. XXXI Adoption of three draft chapters for the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>	155
No. XXXII Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries	156
No. XXXIII List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance	158
No. XXXIV Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands	159
No. XXXV Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses	161
No. XXXVI Composition of the Sub Commission for the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign	164

RECOMMENDATIONS

8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East Manama (Bahrain), 26-29 September 2005

No. 1: Strengthening Veterinary Services: evaluation	169
No. 2: Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals	171
No. 3: Mitigation measures against Avian Influenza in the Middle East	172

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania Seoul (Republic of Korea), 15-18 November 2005

No. 1: Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia	175
No. 2: Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Asia and the Pacific	177

**REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL
COMMISSIONS HELD DURING THE GENERAL SESSION**

• Regional Commission for Africa	181
• Regional Commission for the Americas	187
• Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	193
• Regional Commission for Europe	199
• Regional Commission for the Middle East	205

List of abbreviations

AFSSA:	Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (French Food Safety Agency)
ALive:	Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth
APEC:	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APHIS:	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, United States of America)
BSL:	Biosafety level
CARICOM:	Caribbean Community
CDC:	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEBASEV:	Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services
CEBEVIRHA:	Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)
CIRAD-EMVT:	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire (Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine of the International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development)
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CIWF:	Compassion in World Farming
COPEA :	Permanent Commission of the Americas on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in Animals
DGF:	Development Grant Facility of the World Bank
EC:	European Commission
EFSA:	European Food Safety Authority
EISMV:	Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)
ELISA:	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMPRES:	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
EU:	European Union
EUFMD:	European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (established under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – not to be confused with the European Commission in Brussels)
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI:	International Equestrian Federation
FPA:	fluorescence polarisation assay
GF-TADs:	FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GLEWS:	Global Early Warning System
HEPA:	high-efficiency particle air
IABs:	International Association for Biologicals
IAEA:	International Atomic Energy Agency
IATA:	International Air Transport Association
IDF:	International Dairy Federation
IFAH:	International Federation for Animal Health

IFAP:	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IICA:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IICAB:	Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics
ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS:	International Meat Secretariat
IPPC:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPAIA:	Institut Supérieur des Productions Animales et des Industries Agro-alimentaires (Higher Institute for Animal Production and Agri-Food Industries)
IUCN:	The World Conservation Union
IZS:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
NAI:	notifiable avian influenza
NSP:	nonstructural protein
OFFLU:	Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza
OIRSA:	Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health
PAHO:	Pan American Health Organization
Panaftosa:	Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PRONABIVE:	Productora Nacional de Biológicos Veterinarios
PVS:	Performance, Vision and Strategy
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
STDF:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TAIEX:	Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit
UN-CEFACT:	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
USDA/ARS:	United States Department of Agriculture/Agriculture Research Service
USDA:	United States Department of Agriculture
VICH:	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
VLA:	Veterinary Laboratories Agency
WAVLD:	World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
WHO:	World Health Organization
WTO:	World Trade Organization
WVA:	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 74th General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held at the OIE headquarters¹, 12 rue de Prony, Paris, France, from 21 to 26 May 2006, under the chairmanship of Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (Senegal), President of the International Committee until the second administrative session, and then under the chairmanship of Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), following his election as President. Dr Barry O'Neil chaired the second plenary session and Dr Brian Evans (Canada) chaired the third plenary session.
2. Delegations from 142 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from one non-member country or territory and 40 international or regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the General Session.
4. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Recaredo Ugarte (Uruguay) and Dr François Le Gall (World Bank) participated in the General Session in their capacity as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of certain *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.
7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Dr Norman G. Willis and Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, and Dr Louis Blajan, Honorary Director General of the OIE, were also present.
8. Seven Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 21 MAY 2006 ≡

Opening Session

9. President Niang welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence during the opening ceremony: Mr Jacques Diouf (Director General of the FAO²), Mrs Jaana Husu-Kallio (Representative of the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection), Mr Roberto Rodrigues (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil), Mr Talal Al Sahili (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Guillermo Salazar (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Development of Panama), Mr Shukuru J. Kawambwa (Minister of Livestock Development of Tanzania), Mr Mahamat-Allamine Bourma Treye (Minister of Livestock of Chad), Mr M.A. Al Shiha (Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia), Mr Freddy Condo Riveros (Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Development of Bolivia) and Mr Sergey Dankwert (Head of the Federal Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia).
10. Following the President's address, Mr Diouf took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Mrs Husu-Kallio, Mr Rodrigues, Mr Al Sahili, Mr Salazar, Mr Kawambwa, Mr Bourma Treye, Mr Al Shiha, Mr Condo Riveros and Mr Dankwert.

¹ All the meetings during the first four days were held at the Maison de la Chimie (Paris)

² FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Film projection

11. A preview of the new OIE presentation film was then screened.
12. A film was also shown on the Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, due to be held at Florianopolis, Brazil, from 3 to 5 December 2006.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

13. Dr Niang reminded the participants that in 1985 the International Committee had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then presented the persons selected by the Administrative Commission to receive the awards: Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) for the Gold Medal and Dr Dennis Alexander (United Kingdom) for the Meritorious Service Award.
14. Dr Niang commended Dr Marabelli and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding service to the OIE and the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Alexander and presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal. The recipients thanked the President and the International Committee.
15. Following the ceremony, Dr Niang declared the 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee open.

≡ MONDAY 22 MAY 2006 ≡

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

16. The President welcomed the Delegates, especially the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as members or observers.
17. President Niang welcomed Mr Dominique Bussereau, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, France, and Dr Julie Louise Gerberding, Director of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, and handed them the floor.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

18. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.
19. In the absence of any comments, the Committee adopted the agenda and the timetable of the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 76th and 77th General Sessions

20. The Committee appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 76th and 77th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), is composed of the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Commission

21. The Committee appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.

22. In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Commission, they communicated to the Chairman the list of Delegates who, due to their country's situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE, were unable to take part in the elections and were ineligible to be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005

(Doc. 74 SG/1)

23. Dr Vallat presented the main points in the report. He began by stating that the structure of the Annual Report of the Director General would be revised as it was no longer adapted to the functioning and activities of the OIE.
24. The Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE, which had been unanimously adopted by the International Committee in May 2005, included provisions to strengthen the activities of the OIE Regional Representations and establish Sub-Regional Offices. It reaffirmed the central role of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries and their Delegates to the OIE in fulfilling the objectives of the organisation, and considered capacity building to be the over-riding priority of the work programmes of the OIE Regional Representations.
25. A new, flexible tool, the PVS³, had been created for use in the evaluation of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries.
26. The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund had received contributions from France, the World Bank and Japan (Special Account), notably within the framework of programmes presented at the Meeting in Geneva (November 2005) and the Conference in Beijing (January 2006).
27. Training activities for OIE Delegates had been organised for the five regions.
28. The OIE Regional Representations were now hosting the Secretariat for the GF-TADs⁴ Regional Steering Committees.
29. Updating of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic *Codes* and *Manuals* had continued at a rapid pace. The mechanisms for ensuring transparency of proposals made by the various Specialist Commissions had been strengthened.
30. The new procedure for validating diagnostic tests had been set up.
31. International scientific conferences had been organised in 2005 (avian influenza, rabies).
32. The first OIE standards on animal welfare had been adopted by the International Committee in May 2005.
33. A new, single list of animal diseases, voted in May 2005, had come into force on 1 January 2006.
34. The OIE had also maintained its policy of developing communication.
35. New official Agreements had been negotiated and signed with international and regional organisations.
36. The Committee noted the report of the Director General.

³ PVS: Performance, Vision and Strategy

⁴ GF-TADs: FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

Composition of the Working Groups

37. The Director General announced that, in agreement with the Administrative Commission, a system of chairmanship for the Working Groups could be proposed to their members based on a rota to be determined for each of the Groups. He then reported on the composition of the Working Groups:

- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
 - Dr Marc Artois (France)
 - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
 - Dr Christopher Bunn (Australia)
 - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
 - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
 - Dr Michael H. Woodford (United Kingdom)
- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
 - Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission)
 - Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO)
 - Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
 - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
 - Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO)
 - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
 - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)
- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand)
 - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
 - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
 - Prof. Tore Håstein (Norway)
 - Dr Walter N. Masiga (Kenya)
 - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
 - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)

38. The International Committee approved the composition of the Working Groups.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands

(Doc. 74 SG/9)

39. Dr Barry O'Neil, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this Technical Item, Dr Recaredo Ugarte.
40. Dr Ugarte presented his report, which was partly based on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.

41. The future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands encompass multiple areas over and above the most common fields of activity for the veterinary profession today, such as, for example, veterinary service delivery in urban areas and the animal production sector. The multiple involvement of the veterinary profession was also emphasised by the Director General of the OIE during a seminar on “Challenges in responding to new international and societal demands on the veterinary profession” at the 28th World Veterinary Congress in Minneapolis, United States of America, indicating that in recent years the OIE has been expanding its role with regard to influencing the objectives and missions of the veterinary profession.
42. The veterinary profession by definition deals with all issues relating to animals and their relationship with the environment. Certain species of companion and production animals are, in some instances, favoured on account of demand. Companion animals, for example, are the group of animals with which human beings choose to live so as to make their lives more bearable and often to mitigate the impact of negative emotions, while in the case of production animals veterinary professionals are called upon to conduct both therapeutic and production-related activities. Therapeutic interventions by veterinarians are the most common involvement, but it is the veterinary profession’s responsibility to educate producers to also use veterinary professionals to improve animal productivity. Feeding and handling of different animal species, even aquatic animals, play an increasingly important role in production efficiency, while animal welfare and traceability have also been added to the list of responsibilities of veterinarians. The veterinary profession must therefore be ready to meet this new demand. Consumers are increasingly demanding that animal welfare be treated as a priority as they consider that favourable animal management practices improve the quality of the products they consume. Closely linked to animal welfare is traceability for identifying the origin of a product from the producer, the manufacturer and the retailer for the benefit and assurance of the consumer. This also requires a shared responsibility between official and private veterinarians, who must work in tandem to ensure food safety.
43. The OIE plays an important role together with veterinary training institutions, international and regional cooperation agencies (e.g. IICA⁵, FAO, and PAHO⁶) to equip the upcoming veterinary generation to meet the new demands.

Discussion on Technical Item I

44. Dr O’Neil thanked Dr Ugarte and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He emphasised a number of issues mentioned by the speaker that are of importance to the OIE and invited the Delegates to consider these issues in questions addressed to the speaker.
45. The Delegate of Zimbabwe observed that para-professionals play an important role in the support of Veterinary Services and that education needs should take this into consideration. Dr Ugarte agreed with the Delegate of Zimbabwe but emphasised that para-professionals should always perform their duties under the guidance of a qualified veterinarian.
46. The Delegate of India congratulated the speaker on his excellent presentation and shared three observations with the Delegates: first, that continuous veterinary education is important because of the explosion of knowledge in the veterinary profession; secondly, that the role of auxiliary veterinary staff is important for developing countries in disease surveillance, disease control and primary animal health care; and thirdly, that as training does not always take into account the changes in the international animal disease scene, there is therefore a need for reciprocal exchange and exposure between developed and developing countries on animal diseases. Dr Ugarte agreed that the profession should remain on a par with new developments and new knowledge, but cautioned that costs could be a limiting factor in many countries to adequately facilitate more practical exposure

⁵ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture

⁶ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization

opportunities for students. He reiterated that it is important to agree on who should be the guiding body for veterinary education and suggested that the OIE could assume a leading role in this regard with its standard-setting process.

47. The Delegate of Algeria congratulated Dr Ugarte on his excellent presentation and observed that it might be necessary to consider reducing the number of veterinarians trained as generalists and rather to concentrate on training veterinarians in dedicated fields of speciality.
48. The Delegate of Swaziland congratulated Dr Ugarte on his presentation but noted that traceability was not emphasised enough as being essential in animal disease control. Dr Ugarte responded that because of lack of time, he could not elaborate in detail the aspect of traceability.
49. The Delegate of Uganda congratulated Dr Ugarte on his presentation and expressed concern that trained veterinarians do not address the real needs of farmers because of an apparent lack of interest in the profession. Furthermore, potential students do not see the veterinary profession as an attractive career; this results in a reduction in the quality of the service delivered. Dr Ugarte responded by emphasising the role the profession itself should play to stimulate interest and awareness amongst potential and future colleagues.
50. The Delegate of Togo congratulated Dr Ugarte on his presentation and recalled that, for developing countries such as his, advice to small producers on disease prevention gave results that were highly appreciated. He asked Dr Ugarte to explain his position on this point. Dr Ugarte agreed that interventions by veterinarians necessarily result in an increased expenditure for farmers, but that this should be considered and explained as bringing added value to the farmer's activities.
51. The Delegate of Argentina, after congratulating Dr Ugarte on his excellent presentation, pleaded for closer cooperation and linkages between official and private veterinarians. Private veterinarians also play an important role in controlling diseases and the profession therefore needs a more holistic approach to facilitate closer cooperation between private and public veterinarians. He believed that official veterinarians should incorporate and train private veterinarians in disease control programmes and food safety.
52. The Delegate of Canada, after commending Dr Ugarte on his presentation, observed that the scope of veterinary education needs to be reviewed so as to take into account the comparative medicine commonalities between human and animal health and the incorporation of emerging concepts including biosecurity and ecosystem health. Furthermore, consideration must also be given to the challenges being experienced by veterinary colleges in recruiting, retaining and renewal of faculty as well as the opportunities for cross appointments, adjunct faculty and remote learning tools.
53. The Delegate of Senegal congratulated Dr Ugarte on his presentation and felt that the globalisation of trade has created new challenges for developing countries, which are not always sufficiently equipped to conduct analytical procedures on imported commodities. In addition to this, it is also important to take note of the continuous changes in production systems and biotechnology, which introduce new disease hazards that must be taken into account in the revision of veterinary curriculae. He also pleaded for closer cooperation and interaction between teachers at veterinary schools and practising veterinarians to strengthen the need for a practical approach to veterinary education. The Delegate of Senegal proposed the developed of veterinary training in the field of food hygiene.

54. The Delegate of Yemen after commending the speaker on his presentation, emphasised the need to review veterinary curriculae to so as to establish closer collaboration between human and veterinary medicine.
55. The Delegate of Italy, after commending Dr Ugarte on his presentation, expressed concern at the perceived pressure on the profession to increasingly specialise; this will inevitably result in longer training periods and increased cost of education. He pleaded for more emphasis on continuing education to fully equip veterinarians while basic training should remain more generalised. In complementing this approach, veterinary education should move towards an approach of global veterinary training, making use of modern technologies for distance education and electronic-learning. The OIE can play a leading role in this process through its international standard-setting mandate.
56. Dr Ugarte, in responding to the questions, comments and observations from Delegates, supported the observation that diversification in veterinary education is essential and that it should cover a wide species spectrum – including aquatic animals. Specialisation in his view seems to be inevitable but generalised training should be complemented by continuous education programmes. He also supported the call for the profession to adapt to the changes brought about by globalisation, and the important role the OIE can play in guiding international standards for veterinary education and in encouraging Member Countries to consider global changes and international sanitary standards in the revision of veterinary training programmes. He however cautioned against the mere changing and lengthening of courses and pleaded for an approach of rationalisation of veterinary education in accordance with changing needs.
57. Dr Vallat, in response to the presentations and questions by Delegates, mentioned that veterinary training should aim at enabling the Veterinary Services of Member Countries (including private veterinarians) to deliver their services in compliance with international standards recommended by the OIE. He reminded Delegates of the guidelines, standards and recommendation in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) on the quality of Veterinary Services and the references therein to veterinary training and ongoing training programmes. Veterinary para-professionals, as mentioned in the *Terrestrial Code*, also constitute an integral component of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries and should therefore be accredited by the National Veterinary Councils to ensure the quality of service delivery. He took note of the global concerns on the lack of interest that work in rural areas represents to veterinarians and urged Delegates to initiate incentives to attract veterinarians to such areas. He emphasised the need for a global education network and accepted the challenge by which the OIE could increasingly play a role to enhance the high level of veterinary education worldwide. He urged Delegates to acknowledge and make use of the important role played by OIE Collaborating Centres (Lyons, Teramo and soon Buenos Aires) in presenting and developing continuous veterinary education programmes.
58. Dr O'Neil again congratulated Dr Ugarte on the quality of his presentation and his willingness to answer some difficult questions. At his request, the representatives of the following countries agreed to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution: Argentina, Canada, India, Italy, Swaziland and Togo.

Minute's silence in memory of the Director General of the WHO

59. The President asked the assembly to observe a minute's silence in memory of Dr Jong-wook Lee, Director General of the WHO, who died suddenly on 22 May 2006.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

TECHNICAL ITEM II

Economic and social justification of investment in animal health and zoonoses
(Doc. 74 SG/10)

60. Dr Brian Evans, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr François Le Gall.
61. Dr Le Gall presented his report, which was based in part on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
62. A number of key points have emerged from a review of available economic studies and an analysis of the results of the questionnaires. Firstly, they reveal the limitations of analyses confined to direct or short-term effects, effectively ignoring the complex socioeconomic impacts of animal diseases, especially where they become global or affect public health. When they are analysed/calculated, indirect effects tend to be far greater than direct effects because they include (and sometimes combine) “ripple” effects upstream and downstream of the affected commodity chain or chains, “spillover” effects on other sectors of the economy (such as tourism), “long-term” effects (on herd structure in species with a long reproduction cycle or on the endemic status of a disease), and “remote” effects (on international markets for the products directly affected, as well as for substitution products). This would suggest that most of the figures cited in the literature are much lower than in reality, and that the real effects are themselves severely underestimated. Secondly, they reconfirm increasingly frequent reports of major animal health crises, always with very serious effects on all the various social and professional categories, rich countries as well as poor, extending to all economies in the case of a panzootic, or to the entire population in the much-feared case of a pandemic. They also demonstrate the mutual interest for a country, region, or the community as a whole, to invest in animal health programmes, in order to secure livestock capital and producers’ welfare, to preserve, restore or create access to lucrative international markets and to safeguard consumer health. Lastly, they confirm the economic and social benefit of taking action upstream of crises by investing in surveillance, early detection and rapid response actions, which are much more effective and far less expensive than those needed to manage a crisis.
63. In this context, the economic principles of public good and externality justify treating each of the OIE’s key missions as a global public good, whether this involves ensuring the transparency of the world animal health situation and of scientific information, food safety and the safety of international trade, or the promotion of Veterinary Services and support for developing countries. Moreover, the latter two missions tie in well with the albeit recent commitment by donor agencies to strengthen the capacities of the official Veterinary Services of any developing or transition country requesting such assistance, in accordance with OIE recommendations, standards and guidelines. Recent animal health crises, especially the current avian influenza epizootic, have helped to bring home to the international community the enormous risks of a weak and incomplete global system, and the importance of basing investment on the solidarity principle advocated by the OIE, to be implemented at three geographical levels (national, regional and international), so as to achieve a more effective and balanced global system. This would reduce current disparities in the capacities of countries to prevent major worldwide crises and would guarantee the integrity of the global system of veterinary governance. The health and safety of our entire planet depends upon it.

Discussion of Technical Item II

64. The Chairman thanked Dr Le Gall and noted that the issues discussed extended beyond the agricultural sector and emphasised the interdependencies between the different sectors. He noted that the issues also went beyond the Veterinary Services and that a framework was needed to take into account the social impacts. These represented opportunities for private sector participation.
65. The Delegate of Botswana thanked Dr Le Gall for his excellent presentation and sought clarification on the proposed *ad hoc* Group that would analyse the socio-economic aspects. It would be helpful to define how the *ad hoc* Group would operate and what exactly the OIE's role would be in this regard. Dr Le Gall confirmed that the OIE has the competence to carry out this task as it is at the centre of a global network of expertise. He also mentioned that avian influenza was a good example where similar analyses have already successfully been made. Existing studies and analyses done by the FAO, the World Bank and the ILRI⁷ should be taken into account in this work.
66. The Delegate of Uganda thanked the Speaker for the rich and exhaustive paper as it is sometimes very difficult to convince Member Country governments to invest in livestock industries and animal health. This is vital because of the importance of poverty alleviation but it is difficult to show convincing data. These kinds of studies can also be used to convince national and international organisations to invest in livestock and animal health. He asked to what extent farmers should be involved in this process. Dr Le Gall agreed with the Delegate's concerns and explained that, in his view, farmers play a key role but they should work in collaboration with the Veterinary Services. He expressed his satisfaction that the World Bank had recognised Veterinary Services as a global public good. He also mentioned the ongoing World Bank project that specifically recognises the importance of animal health and livestock, and stressed the need to involve both the public and private sector, including farmers, in this process.
67. The Delegate of Cuba congratulated the speaker on his excellent presentation on this complex topic. He emphasised that the OIE had already made a major effort to collect and provide good quality information on the animal health situation through its network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. There is a need to work on solidarity, in the broadest sense of the term, in the field of veterinary activities going beyond the economic aspects. The Delegate suggested illustrating the work with practical examples. Dr Le Gall agreed on the importance of the principle of solidarity, which has been illustrated by the recent Beijing and Geneva conferences of stakeholders.
68. A member of the Delegation of the United Kingdom acknowledged the global perspective of the presentation, which describes the concept of Veterinary Services as being a global public good. He welcomed the proposal to set up an *ad hoc* Group to study the likelihood of disease occurrence and re-occurrence, the effectiveness of measures and the costs involved. He recalled that the outcomes of the Beijing conference provide a good example of solidarity and an excellent basis for guidance for donors.
69. The OIE Regional Representative for the Americas stressed the need for a tool to increase awareness at the national level of the proper management of Veterinary Services and the need for proper resources for their sustainability. He suggested the development of economic models that would enable budgets and decisions on conducting sanitary programmes to be evaluated before the programmes are launched. These models could be used to convince stakeholders of the importance of investment in Veterinary Services. He proposed that the OIE take the lead in this work and provide the necessary training.

⁷ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

70. The Delegate of Denmark thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation and stressed the importance of taking into account the long-term effects of disease control actions. The Delegate underlined the need to prioritise activities in order to avoid spending resources on unnecessary surveillance and measures. He asked if tools could be developed for this purpose.
71. The Delegate of Morocco welcomed the concept of Veterinary Services as a global public good. He questioned the World Bank on the practical implementation of this concept in those countries that need to bring their Veterinary Services in line with the required OIE standards. He also noted that much attention is given to emerging diseases but not enough to endemic diseases. He stressed the need for the development of economic models on the impact of endemic diseases and the need for veterinary training. Dr Le Gall informed the Delegates that the new President of the World Bank recognises the concept of global public good, which is focused on the fight against all animal diseases, and he has accorded high priority to poverty reduction world-wide. As the current crisis has shown, the management of avian influenza could be an example to follow.
72. The Delegate of Zimbabwe supported the intervention made by the Delegate of Morocco and thanked the World Bank for acknowledging the need to strengthen the Veterinary Services. He noted that it was far better for funds to be used for that purpose rather than for single disease events, such as the current avian influenza crisis. He recalled that, besides the current avian influenza crisis, there are frequently diseases like foot and mouth disease that have a high economic impact and that strengthening of Veterinary Services is a long-term task. He asked about the long-term commitment of the World Bank to bringing Veterinary Services up to the required level of quality. Dr Le Gall confirmed the need for a sustainable strengthening of the Veterinary Services with a view to better cooperation with other stakeholders, notably with the public health sector. He stated that he was personally working on this topic at the headquarters of the World Bank.
73. The Delegate of South Africa joined the other Delegates in congratulating the speaker. He acknowledged the need to involve the private sector and he formulated a question for the future *ad hoc* Group: how, and to what extent, should the private sector be involved in the strengthening of Veterinary Services? Dr Le Gall replied by stating that the OIE was actively working on improving cooperation between the private and public sector.
74. The Delegate of Mauritania thanked the OIE for promoting the concept of Veterinary Services as a global public good. He stressed the importance of socio-economic studies as a means of convincing Ministries and stakeholders to invest in the control of animal diseases through the strengthening of Veterinary Services.
75. Dr Vallat recalled that only four years ago the Veterinary Services were not recognised as a global public good and that the current situation was a major improvement. He then explained that budgetary decisions at the national and international level are not always rational, because some lobbies are very effective in the plant production sector, a situation that penalises the livestock and animal health sectors. The OIE has a mandate to improve animal health world-wide and consequently advocates effective Veterinary Services. The OIE has therefore decided to initiate studies to compare the cost of prevention with the cost of sanitary crises. This will provide OIE Delegates with key arguments to defend, in their countries, the sustainable strengthening of Veterinary Services. He concluded by saying that this work would need to take into account the expertise of other international bodies, such as the FAO and the ILRI.
76. Dr Evans once again congratulated Dr Le Gall on his outstanding presentation and on his willingness to reply to the questions from the floor. He invited the Delegates of Cuba, Denmark, Morocco, South Africa, Uganda and the United Kingdom to form a group along with Dr Le Gall to draw up the draft Resolution on this Technical Item.

Planned Working Programme for 2007

(Doc. 74 SG/6 – Appendix I)

77. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2007, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Delegates elected to the Administrative Commission.
78. The Planned Working Programme for 2007 submitted to the Delegates for approval is presented in Appendix I of document 74 SG/6.
79. The International Committee adopted the Planned Working Programme for 2007.

Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE

80. The Director General stated that presentations at a Plenary Session were made only by intercontinental international organisations and by regional organisations that had just signed an agreement with the OIE, the other regional organisations making their presentation within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
81. The President stated that the order of presentations was intergovernmental organisations followed by professional international organisations, but that several exceptions would be made due to the imminent departure of the representatives of certain organisations (IDF⁸ and WAVLD⁹).

International Dairy Federation

82. Mr Christian Robert, Director General of the IDF, reported on the activities of his organisation.
83. The IDF brings together the dairy sector of 49 countries, which account for 75% of the world's milk production. A network of 1200 experts supports the IDF.
84. Animal health is a major concern for the dairy sector (mastitis, paratuberculosis, tuberculosis, foot and mouth disease, etc.).
85. The IDF, in conjunction with the OIE, has organised several international symposia on:
 - paratuberculosis, in January 2001 (Brussels, Belgium);
 - hygiene of milk products, in March 2004 (Cape Town, South Africa);
 - mastitis, in June 2005 (Maastricht, Netherlands).
86. The OIE is invited to participate in the 27th IDF Congress, to be held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, in September 2006. The OIE is also invited to the meetings of the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and the Working Group on Sanitary Certification of Milk Products.
87. The IDF participates in the work of the OIE relating to revision of chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and was consulted during the preparation of the Guide to Good Farming Practices.

⁸ IDF: International Dairy Federation

⁹ WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

88. Dr Walter Bommeli, representative of the WAVLD, reported on the activities of this organisation, which has just signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE.
89. Dr Bommeli briefly described the history of the WAVLD. The first meeting of the Association took place in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1977 and the second in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1980. It was during this second meeting that the new name of the Association was adopted. The first President was Dr Vaughn Seaton. The basic texts of the WAVLD were adopted at the meeting in Ames, Iowa, United States of America, in 1983.
90. The aims of the WAVLD are:
 - to disseminate the latest information relating to the diagnosis of animal diseases;
 - to facilitate the organisation of associations of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians in all countries of the world;
 - to help countries seeking assistance in the field of veterinary diagnosis;
 - to support other activities to improve the health and welfare of humans and animals throughout the world.
91. Dr Bommeli announced that the next meetings of the WAVLD would be held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2007 and Madrid, Spain, in 2009 in collaboration with the OIE.

World Health Organization

92. Following the death of Dr Jong-wook Lee, Director General of the WHO, the President asked Dr François-Xavier Meslin, representing that organisation, to convey the OIE's deepest condolences to the WHO.
93. Dr Meslin began by delivering a tribute to Dr Lee. He then presented the activities of the WHO during the past year, in particular the current avian influenza situation.
94. He recalled the figures for human contamination with the H5N1 virus, namely 217 human cases including 115 deaths, 83% of the deaths occurring in South-East Asia.
95. The WHO is particularly concerned that a pandemic could develop as a result of the avian influenza crisis.
96. Dr Meslin recalled that the WHO and the FAO had established an International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN).
97. The WHO works closely with the OIE and the FAO within the framework of GLEWS¹⁰, with the aim of preventing and controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses. An agreement will shortly be signed and a meeting of the Steering Committee is due to be held on 18 July 2006.
98. Dr Meslin referred to the *Salmonella* surveillance system and described the work of the WHO on antibiotic resistance. On the subject of food safety, he recalled that the WHO and the FAO work together within the framework of a joint programme, the Codex Alimentarius.
99. The WHO, the FAO and the OIE hold an annual tripartite coordination meeting. The latest meeting was held in Paris, France, in February 2006.

¹⁰ GLEWS: Global Early Warning System

100. Dr Meslin announced the recent publication of two reports, one on the control of orphan zoonoses and the other on a WHO/FAO/OIE tripartite consultation on avian influenza (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

101. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, reported on the activities of his organisation.
102. Collaboration between the FAO and the OIE continued to develop throughout the year 2005–2006, with avian influenza not surprisingly at the forefront of these activities.
103. The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) was set up within the framework of the EMPRES¹¹ programme and an FAO Chief Veterinary Officer was appointed to centralise decision-making in the disease control field.
104. As early as the beginning of September 2005, the FAO alerted the international community to the imminent spread of the avian influenza H5N1 virus to regions beyond Asia. Based on epidemiological analyses of events involving migratory birds in China, Mongolia and Siberia, the FAO was convinced that the virus would be transported over great distances when these birds migrated to their wintering areas. This indeed occurred from October 2005 onwards, with the whole of Europe and a part of the Middle East becoming contaminated.
105. The FAO continued its activities in support of its member countries, at the national, regional and international level.
106. At a national level, numerous support missions took place: assessment of the situation, definition of strategies, and implementation of control programmes. At the regional level, the FAO notably continued to set up and coordinate the activities of laboratory networks and national surveillance teams. These networks are a key factor in improving diagnosis and surveillance and ensuring transparency of information. The FAO has begun to establish decentralised units of ECTAD, in particular in Asia. The FAO will work with the OIE to establish regional animal health centres, and also with the AU-IBAR insofar as Africa is concerned. At a global level, the FAO is setting up an FAO-OIE Crisis Management Centre (CMC) in Rome, Italy, equipped with modern communication and information resources and staffed by experts who can be mobilised as soon as an outbreak of a transboundary disease is detected in a country. For these missions, in most cases implemented jointly with the OIE and other relevant agencies, the CMC can also call upon the network of experts of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres of the OIE and the FAO (OFFLU).
107. With regard to the epidemiological and socio-economic analysis of major crises, such as the avian influenza crisis, the FAO continues to favour a global approach. Interactions between the production systems, the context of globalisation of trade, environmental change and the socio-economic, institutional and political dimensions are analysed so as to identify major health trends, predict events, provide early warning and thereby be prepared to respond to emerging crises before they have time to spread. The FAO has multidisciplinary teams and various levels of information (OIE official animal health information and other types of field data, including information on animal populations, land use, climate, animal movements, data on natural or man-made disasters, etc.), enabling this integrated global analysis to be carried out (disease intelligence).
108. The FAO has a separate department for dealing with socio-economic, political and institutional questions related to animal production and health. This approach is essential in order to be able to propose short-, medium- and long-term animal disease prevention and control programmes.

¹¹ EMPRES: Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases

109. All the FAO's animal health activities, and in particular those related to highly contagious or vector-borne transboundary diseases, are developed within the framework of the GF-TADs initiative, which was the subject of an FAO-OIE agreement signed in May 2004. GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees have been set up in recent months.
110. Numerous regional and international meetings have been organised jointly by the FAO and the OIE. Two key events deserve special emphasis: the Meeting in Geneva (November 2005), which clearly recognised the importance of controlling avian influenza at its source in animals, to prevent the risk of a human pandemic, and the major role of the specialised agencies, namely the FAO, the OIE and the WHO; and the International Pledging Conference in Beijing (January 2006), which saw the international donor community pledge nearly two billion USD to help developing countries in their fight against the disease.
111. The forthcoming Conference in Vienna, Austria, on 6 and 7 June 2006 will re-evaluate the necessary resources and will make a special case for Africa, a continent newly infected since the beginning of 2006 where a very great effort will be required. The FAO and the OIE will participate in preparing the dossier to be presented in Vienna by the Director of AU-IBAR on behalf of the ALive (Livestock for Africa) platform, which in addition to these two organisations includes AU-IBAR, sub-regional organisations, the majority of donors (World Bank, European Commission, African Development Bank, bilateral cooperation, etc.) and educational and research institutions. Mention should also be made of the FAO/OIE International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, Rome, Italy, 31 May 2006, and a conference on vaccines and vaccination (FAO/OIE/IZS¹² Padova/EC¹³, beginning of 2007).
112. In addition to avian influenza, which has been the major theme of the partnership between the FAO and the OIE during the past year, other areas of cooperation are continuing, for example on rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, the Internet portal and the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, and within the framework of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

World Trade Organization

113. Ms Christiane Wolff, Economic Affairs Officer at the WTO¹⁴, reported on the activities of that organisation.
114. During 2005, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) held three regular meetings: in March, June and October. The October meeting was continued in early February 2006. The first regular meeting of the Committee in 2006 was held from 29 to 30 March and was followed by a workshop on 31 March on the implementation of the SPS Agreement. Further regular SPS Committee meetings are tentatively planned for 28–30 June and 11–13 October 2006.
115. As usual during the meetings, WTO Members raised many specific questions on trade, of which 42% (i.e. 21 issues) related to animal health. During 2005, 13 new animal health-related trade concerns were discussed. In the period from 1995 to 2005, a total of 234 trade concerns were discussed in the Committee, 40% of which related to animal health. Taking a closer look at the animal health issues discussed, 41% related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, 22% to foot and mouth disease and the remainder to other issues, including the avian influenza problem, which has assumed growing importance. An OIE representative actively participated in the Committee's discussions on animal health issues.

¹² IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale

¹³ EC: European Commission

¹⁴ WTO: World Trade Organization

116. With regard to regionalisation, many WTO Members noted their difficulty in committing to the investments needed to obtain recognition of pest- or disease-free status, as such recognition by their trading partners is unpredictable. Some Members suggested that harmonising regionalisation procedures could improve the recognition process and enhance predictability. However, there is currently no agreement among Members on whether the SPS Committee should develop guidelines on regionalisation, and whether these guidelines, if developed, should contain time frames for completion of individual administrative steps.
117. In June 2005, the SPS Committee adopted the Report on the Second Review of the Operation of the SPS Agreement. This report recommends that the relevant international organisations keep the SPS Committee informed of any work they undertake with regard to the recognition of equivalence, as well as their activities relevant to the recognition of pest- or disease-free areas. The SPS Committee's approach to addressing issues raised in the Review will be determined by submissions and proposals received from Members. One issue that has been raised, but on which no discussions have yet occurred, regards the relationship between the SPS Committee and the OIE, Codex and IPPC¹⁵.
118. Dr Vallat emphasised the importance of a permanent dialogue at the national level between the Chief Veterinary Officers and representatives on the SPS Committee so as to avoid adopting differing positions.

World Bank

119. Dr François Le Gall, representing the World Bank, thanked the OIE for inviting him to present his institution.
120. While livestock is a key sub-sector in helping to reduce poverty, animal diseases prevent developing countries, with their limited operational control capacities, from accessing regional and international markets, ensuring food security and food safety and achieving sustainable economic growth. Due to their potentially huge and extended socio-economic impacts (direct, ripple, spill over, long-term or remote effects, or a combination of all of these, and usually underestimated), transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses pose a serious threat not only at a national level but at a global level and fully justify that their control be considered as a global public good. The potential impact of these diseases is also a good argument in favour of large-scale investments in rapid crisis-response capabilities (animal disease prevention, through surveillance, early detection and rapid response, is more efficient and less costly than animal disease control) and of the long-term strengthening of Veterinary Services (in compliance with OIE standards) and the establishment of a world-wide system of veterinary governance.
121. The collaboration between the OIE and the World Bank aimed at implementing the Doha Declaration has been reinforced since 2001 and is now operating at a technical level (definition of common objectives as stated in the Cooperation Agreement) as well as at a financial level (establishment of financial mechanisms such as the STDF¹⁶ and a DGF¹⁷ for emerging and re-emerging diseases of animal origin, including zoonoses). In terms of concrete achievements since the last (73rd) General Session of the OIE, the World Bank has been working in close collaboration with the OIE on repositioning the livestock sector – and the animal health sector in particular – within the framework of the International Development Agenda, by:
 - making joint proposals to relaunch investments in animal health, initially in sub-Saharan Africa within the framework of the ALive partnership;

¹⁵ IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

¹⁶ STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility

¹⁷ DGF: Development Grant Facility of the World Bank

- raising the awareness of the World Bank management on the important issue of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases (visit of the OIE Director General to the World Bank headquarters in June 2005);
- providing a global response to avian and human influenza (creation of a global facility for the prevention and control of avian and human influenza [AHI: Avian and Human Influenza Facility] and preparation of international conferences on avian and human influenza);
- promoting the long-term strengthening of Veterinary Services at the national, regional and global level, in compliance with OIE standards.

≡ TUESDAY 23 MAY 2006 ≡

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

**Presentations by International Organisations
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)**

World Veterinary Association

122. Dr Leon Russell, President of the WVA¹⁸, reported on that organisation's activities.
123. The WVA and the OIE signed an Agreement in 2002 that encouraged collaboration between the two organisations. During the first three years (2002–2005), WVA Presidents Dr Jim Edwards and Dr Herbert Schneider fulfilled that partnership by actively participating in OIE activities. Dr Russell, WVA President for the period 2005–2008, has promised to continue that partnership through the new WVA strategic plan. This entails identifying and participating in those OIE activities that are of interest to the global veterinary profession, with particular focus on: animal health and animal welfare; raising standards in global veterinary education; developing a global veterinary practice code and a veterinarian's oath; better global communications, especially through the WVA website (www.worldvet.org); joint OIE/WVA World Veterinary Day activities; and facilitating OIE participation in the 2008 World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

International Association for Biologicals

124. Dr Michel Lombard, Vice-President, Veterinary Scientific Conference Committee, IABs¹⁹, reported on that organisation's activities.
125. IABs is an independent branch of the Union of Microbiological Societies. It is a non-profit scientific organisation, which was founded in Lyons, France, in 1955, and is currently based in Geneva, Switzerland. IABs acts as a major international forum for bringing together state control authorities, manufacturers, academic research workers and public health organisations to develop a consensus on issues concerning the standardisation and control of biological medicinal products for human and veterinary use, such as vaccines.
126. The Director General of the OIE and the President of IABs signed an agreement in May 2004 with the aim of cooperating on issues of common interest, for example the use of biologicals in the control of animal diseases and the organisation of international conferences.

¹⁸ WVA: World Veterinary Association

¹⁹ IABs: International Association for Biologicals

127. The OIE and IABs co-organised two conferences in 2004 and four conferences in 2005. The IABs Veterinary Scientific Conference Committee is responsible for editing, printing and distributing the proceedings of all these conferences.
128. OIE/IABs cooperative activities in 2005 included organising four international conferences and editing the proceedings:
- 1) the Conference on Marker Vaccines and Companion Diagnostic Kits, held on 4 and 5 April in Ames, Iowa, United States of America, in collaboration with IICAB²⁰ and USDA²¹;
 - 2) the OIE/FAO International Conference on Avian Influenza, held on 7 and 8 April at the OIE headquarters in Paris, France;
 - 3) the Conference on Rabies in Europe, held on 15–18 June in Kiev, Ukraine, in collaboration with the EU²², WHO²³, AFSSA²⁴ and the Government of the Ukraine; and
 - 4) the Conference on New Diagnostic Technology, Applications in Animal Health and Biologics Controls, held on 3–5 October in Saint-Malo, France, in collaboration with AFSSA, APHIS²⁵ and ISPAIA²⁶.

Dr Lombard presented the OIE/IABs cooperative activities planned for 2006, and in particular the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health (Bergen, Norway, 9-12 October) and the First International Conference for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (Florianoópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, 3–5 December), organised in collaboration with the governments of the host countries.

International Federation for Animal Health

129. Dr Peter Jones, Executive Director of IFAH²⁷, reported on that organisation's activities.
130. IFAH is the Federation that represents the manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across the five continents.
131. The emergence of some new and critically important issues in recent times, such as outbreaks of avian influenza and the focus on the availability of medicines for major diseases of economic importance throughout the world, has illustrated very clearly the need to further strengthen infrastructures to improve animal health.
132. The cooperation agreement between IFAH and the OIE is considered by the Federation to be one of its most important alliances because the OIE is the acknowledged and most respected voice on global animal health. IFAH is pleased to continue that cooperation to build and improve infrastructures for the health and welfare of animals for which we all have a duty of care.

²⁰ IICAB: Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologies

²¹ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

²² EU: European Union

²³ WHO: World Health Organization

²⁴ AFSSA: Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (French Food Safety Agency)

²⁵ APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, United States of America)

²⁶ ISPAIA: Institut Supérieur des Productions Animales et des Industries Agro-alimentaires (Higher Institute for Animal Production and Agri-Food Industries)

²⁷ IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

133. Dr David King, Secretary General of IFAP²⁸, reported on the activities of that organisation.
134. Over the past 40 years, family farmers have shown their ability to adapt to the constantly changing demands of consumers and society, despite a 60% fall in the world prices for farm products and a deterioration in their market access. To continue to live from their activity, farmers need to respond to increasing quality and traceability requirements, food safety and animal welfare standards, and standards for environmental stewardship. As international decisions become national laws and govern the daily life of hundreds of millions of farmers in the world, the 114 member farmers' organisations mandated IFAP to contribute to the development of the OIE food safety and animal welfare standards through its veterinary experts. The OIE standards widely influence farmers' livelihoods. It is essential that farmers are involved in debates and discussions. This is why IFAP, the worldwide organisation financed and managed by family farmers themselves, discussed these issues at its World Farmers' Congress, in the Republic of Korea, from 13 to 19 May 2006. IFAP is pleased to have signed in 2005 an international agreement with OIE and looks forward to collaborating concretely with the World Organisation for Animal Health in the future.

International Meat Secretariat

135. Mr Laurence Wrixon, Secretary General of the IMS²⁹, reported on the activities of his organisation.
136. Since the adoption of the OIE-IMS Agreement in 2004, cooperation between the two organisations has been strengthened. The OIE has examined with the IMS and other organisations conditions for working jointly with the private sector in the procedure for developing standards.
137. Cooperation has also involved animal welfare. Livestock professionals have considerable expertise in this field. Members of the IMS have contributed an article to an issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* dedicated to animal welfare (24(2)).
138. The IMS participated in the meeting of the Working Group on Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy, in September 2005 and sent a delegation to the Meeting on avian influenza organised by the OIE, the FAO and the WHO, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2005. The Director General of the OIE published an article in the IMS Newsletter.
139. An OIE Delegation participated in the 16th World Meat Congress in Brisbane, Australia, which brought together 700 professionals from all over the world. The next Congress is due to take place in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2008.
140. The 5th IMS Meat Marketing Communication Workshop is being held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 18 to 20 October 2006. In February 2007, the IMS Scientific Workshop will take place in Valencia, Spain, on the topic 'Meat and Food Safety: From the Abattoir to Consumer'. The 4th IMS World Pork Conference will be held in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China, in September 2007.

²⁸ IFAP: International Federation of Agricultural Producers

²⁹ IMS: International Meat Secretariat

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

141. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animals Commission), commenced her presentation by stating that the past 12 months had been extremely busy, with work focusing not only on new text for the next edition of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), but also on a new, entirely updated edition of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*). She sincerely thanked members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, the Commission's *ad hoc* Groups and other participants at its meetings, as well as the many experts providing out-of-session assistance, for their continued support.
142. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bernoth gave special recognition to the dedicated efforts of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the staff of the OIE Central Bureau, noting that it is now common for the Commission to meet with representatives from each of the OIE's Departments during the Commission's meetings. She also expressed great appreciation for the readily available assistance of the President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission), Dr Alejandro Thiermann.
143. During the last 12 months, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice, from 1 to 5 August 2005 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 A) and from 13 to 17 March 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B). Unlike in previous years, there was no additional meeting just prior to the General Session; therefore the draft text that is being proposed for adoption this year has not changed from the versions that were circulated as appendices to Part A of the Commission's March 2006 meeting report.
144. Dr Bernoth and the Aquatic Animals Commission were happy to note that a continuously increasing number of Member Countries now provided comments, also reflecting a wider geographical range of respondents. She pointed out specifically that there had been a surge in comments received from Member Countries in the Americas and congratulated the Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr Luis Barcos, for his efforts in this context. She stressed the importance of regional activities such as the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health, which was initiated as an *ad hoc* group, had its first face-to-face meeting in January 2006, and has now been established as a permanent committee.

On the downside, she noted, there had been relatively few responses from Asian countries. Also, only two European countries outside the EU, only one African country and no country from the Middle East had provided comments despite significant aquaculture activities in each of these regions. With the support of the Director General, the Commission will therefore continue to provide updates at forthcoming conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions on the importance of aquatic animal health issues. In this context, Dr Bernoth reported that there continues to be close and effective cooperation between the Commission, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, and the Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific.

Dr Bernoth noted that, by mid-April 2006, 42 Member Countries had followed Dr Vallat's invitation to nominate a specific official as the OIE contact person for aquatic animal diseases with responsibility for sending, under the authority of the Delegate, comments on the Commission's proposals for new standards. Dr Bernoth also drew Delegates' attention to the upcoming OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health (to take place in Bergen, Norway, 9–12 October 2006) and encouraged Delegates to register for this important event.

145. Dr Bernoth presented a brief outline of her presentation. She stressed that she would focus on the draft disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and the suggested changes to the list of aquatic animal diseases. These items are also proposed for adoption for the ninth edition of the *Aquatic Code* (2006).

146. **Disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code***

Dr Bernoth reminded the OIE International Committee of Resolution No. XIX (Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Code*), adopted at the 72nd General Session in 2004. The OIE International Committee had agreed that the Aquatic Animals Commission should develop, in consultation with the Code Commission, a template on which to base individual disease chapters. These chapters would be submitted progressively for adoption and would serve as models for the development of all disease chapters of the *Aquatic Code*, based on the work of international experts including experts from OIE Reference Laboratories.

Dr Bernoth also reminded Delegates that the first three chapters in the new format had been adopted by the OIE International Committee at the 73rd General Session in 2005 (Resolution No. XVIII – Amendments to the *Aquatic Code*).

With the assistance of the two *ad hoc* Groups for Fish and for Mollusc Disease Chapters for the *Aquatic Code*, and taking into account Member Country comments, these three “sample” chapters had been refined and drafts prepared for the chapters for the other listed aquatic animal diseases. Dr Bernoth clarified that while the new drafts for fish and mollusc disease chapters had been circulated to Member Countries for comment with the Commission’s August 2005 meeting report (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 A), the *ad hoc* Group for Crustacean Disease Chapters for the *Aquatic Code* had been able to meet only afterwards (i.e. in October 2005), which is why the draft revised and new crustacean chapters have been circulated for Member Country comment by 10 September 2006 under Part B of the March 2006 meeting report (Appendices XXII to XXX; Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B). Therefore, there are no revised crustacean disease chapters proposed for adoption at this General Session.

Dr Bernoth also reminded Delegates that three disease chapters are proposed for deletion from the *Aquatic Code*. These are the chapters on infection with *Marteilia sydneyi*, infection with *Mikrocytos roughleyi*, and infection with *Haplosporidium costale*. As explained in the Commission’s August 2005 report (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 A), the first two disease chapters are proposed for deletion because of the absence of international trade in susceptible species, and the third disease chapter is to be removed because of the negligible impact of that disease.

Dr Bernoth then provided details on the Commission’s consideration of some of the Member Country comments received on these drafts:

- Some Member Countries had again queried the choice of a period of 25 years for the declaration of historical freedom. Dr Bernoth reiterated that this figure was taken as the default based on the recommendations of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*; the same basis applied for the time period specified for targeted surveillance and the application of basic biosecurity conditions. She reminded Delegates that time periods for specific diseases would be modified in line with the information provided by the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance that is to meet later in the year. She encouraged Member Countries that have relevant information to submit it

to the Aquatic Animals Commission. In the meantime, for mollusc disease chapters, the choice of ten years to justify historical freedom is based on the relatively shorter lifecycle of the mollusc hosts and pathogens when compared with fish.

- New Zealand had queried the method used to select susceptible species for each disease chapter in the *Aquatic Code*, and Australia had noted inconsistencies for some diseases between the list of susceptible species in the *Aquatic Code* and that in the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Bernoth explained that as a further move towards harmonisation of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*, the Aquatic Animals Commission had decided that the full reference list of susceptible species for surveillance and notification purposes would be presented in each of the disease chapters of the *Aquatic Manual*, while the pertinent chapters in the *Aquatic Code* would address only those susceptible species that are relevant in the context of international trade.

- Norway and the European Union had queried the choice of commodities that can be traded with negligible risk (Article 3 of disease chapters). Dr Bernoth clarified that the listing of commodities under Article 3 needed to be supported by scientific data (other than for the generally agreed inactivation procedures) because, in the Commission's view, the "absence of evidence of risk" alone should not justify a listing of a commodity as "safe". Rather, she explained, "scientific evidence of absence of risk" needed to be provided, because for commodities listed in this Article, the OIE recommends that no measures should be required even if the commodity originates from an infected area. Regarding the specific query about whether disinfected fish eggs could be listed as "safe", Dr Bernoth explained that, apart from the lack of scientific evidence of absence of risk (see above), the potential "safety" of such commodities would also depend on the disinfection procedure being carried out correctly every time, adding an element of uncertainty that should not be there for commodities recommended to be traded without any restriction at all. Member Countries that have scientific evidence supporting the listing of commodities as safe are strongly encouraged to make that evidence available to the Aquatic Animals Commission. Dr Bernoth summarised by saying that the identification of safe commodities in the disease chapters of the *Aquatic Code* is a new concept, and at this stage only commodities that are safe without any doubt have been listed; for future editions of the *Aquatic Code*, the application of this concept will evolve and take into account scientific evidence demonstrating a negligible level of risk for other commodities.

Dr Bernoth stressed that Member Countries had made additional comments on the proposed disease chapters, querying, for example, the need for two years for targeted surveillance for entirely new aquaculture establishments and for those wishing to restore their free status, and provisions for regaining freedom for previously free compartments. The Aquatic Animals Commission recognises these as priority issues but had not been able to satisfactorily address them at its March 2006 meeting. Therefore, these items were placed on the Commission's work programme. Likewise, Australia's query as to whether the risks associated with any accompanying transport water had been considered when the inclusion of gametes, eggs and larvae in Article 3 had been proposed, will be referred to the three *ad hoc* Groups for Fish, Mollusc and Crustacean Disease Chapters for the *Aquatic Code* for expert opinion. Dr Bernoth also clarified that the Commission had decided to forward comments received on the updated chapter on *Gyrodactylus salaris* to the *ad hoc* Group for Fish Disease Chapters for the *Aquatic Code* because of the highly technical and specialised nature of those comments. Therefore, the Commission is not proposing an updated chapter on *Gyrodactylus salaris* at this General Session.

In summary, the changes made since August 2005 to the fish and mollusc disease chapters reflect the above clarifications regarding “susceptible species” (Article 2 of each chapter now reads “Scope”) and some editorial improvements. The fish and mollusc disease chapters now proposed for adoption had been appended to the March 2006 meeting report as Appendices VI to XIX and XXI (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B).

147. Revision of the list of diseases in the *Aquatic Code*

Following the adoption at the 69th General Session in 2001 of Resolution No. XXIII on OIE Categorisation of Animal Diseases, a single list of aquatic animal diseases was published in the sixth edition (2003) of the *Aquatic Code*, following adoption by the OIE International Committee at the 71st General Session in 2003 (Resolution No. XIX – Adoption of the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code* and the fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*). The single list combined all diseases previously listed as “notifiable” and as “other significant”. Since then, a review of all the listed diseases against the new listing criteria has been a high priority for the Aquatic Animals Commission, and a substantially shortened list was adopted at the 73rd General Session in May 2005 (Resolution No. XVIII – Amendments to the *Aquatic Code*) and published in the eighth edition (2005) of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Bernoth also pointed out that the International Database on Aquatic Animal Diseases currently displays the list of aquatic animal diseases from the 2005 edition of the *Aquatic Code*. Information on diseases removed from the list in the *Aquatic Code* is now maintained under a separate category of “previously listed diseases”.

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that Chapter 1.1.3. of the current version of the *Aquatic Code* annotates two fish diseases (infectious pancreatic necrosis [IPN] and bacterial kidney disease [BKD]) and two mollusc diseases (infection with *Mikrocytos mackini* and infection with *Perkinsus olseni*) with “Delisting is under study”. Despite scientific advice provided by the fish and mollusc teams on the *ad hoc* Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 A), some Member Countries continued to express concerns about the proposed deletion of BKD, IPN and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*. Dr Bernoth suggested that these concerns appeared to be based on trade rather than reporting issues and drew Delegates’ attention to the fact that while the list of diseases related to the reporting obligations of Member Countries, the disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code* served to assist Member Countries to develop their import regulations. She pointed out that there was currently no proposal to delete the disease chapters for these three diseases from the *Aquatic Code*. The Aquatic Animals Commission maintains its previous decision and proposes the deletion of BKD, IPN and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini* from the OIE list of diseases.

Chapter 1.1.3. of the current version of the *Aquatic Code* also annotates one fish disease (koi herpesvirus disease [KHVD]) and two crustacean diseases (necrotising hepatopancreatitis [NHP] and infectious myonecrosis [IMN]) with “Listing is under study”. As indicated at the last General Session, there had been expert discussions on whether KHVD met the listing criteria at two international conferences on aquatic animal health. The outcomes of these discussions were considered in the final report of the fish team of the *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases (appended in Part C of the March 2006 meeting report as Appendix XXXVII to Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B). The Aquatic Animals Commission maintains its previous decision and proposes the addition of KHVD to the OIE list of diseases.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that the Aquatic Animals Commission maintains its previous decision to propose the addition of abalone viral mortality to the OIE list of diseases and, on behalf of the Commission, she thanked Chile for its constructive comments on the infections described in abalone.

Dr Bernoth also suggested that the review of the list of aquatic animal diseases will be an on-going process; for example, the crustacean team of the *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases at its October 2005 meeting had already updated its previous assessment of NHP and IMN and also conducted an assessment of three new and emerging crustacean diseases (see Appendix XXXVII to Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B) and will furthermore be asked to address a suggestion by Thailand to delist tetrahedral baculovirus and spherical baculovirus.

In summary, the only change since August 2005 to the revised list of diseases is the removal of the annotation on KHVD. The revised list now proposed for adoption had been appended to Part A of the March 2006 meeting report (Appendix V of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B).

148. **Revision of disease listing and notification criteria in the *Aquatic Code***

Dr Bernoth reminded the OIE International Committee of Resolution No. XXIII on OIE Categorisation of Animal Diseases, adopted at the 69th General Session in 2001. By adopting this Resolution, the Committee had agreed that the OIE revise the current categorisation system for animal diseases, including the classification of aquatic animal diseases, to create a single disease list.

The Aquatic Animals Commission had cooperated closely with the Code Commission in preparing revised listing criteria for aquatic animal diseases. These were adopted by the OIE International Committee at the 71st General Session in 2003 (Resolution No. XIX – Adoption of the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code* and the fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*) and had been refined at the 72nd General Session in 2004 (Resolution No. XVIII – Adoption of the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code*) and again at the 73rd General Session in 2005 (Resolution No. XVIII – Amendments to the *Aquatic Code*). In 2005, the OIE International Committee had also adopted criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease, to better accommodate diseases that may not yet fully meet the “full” criteria for listing.

Chapter 1.1.2. on Disease listing and notification criteria was again revised by the Aquatic Animals Commission, to address Member Country comments. The only changes since August 2005 to the revised disease listing and notification criteria are the removal of Article 1.1.2.3. on Criteria for immediate notification of aquatic animal diseases (and, consequently, the words “and notification” from the chapter heading) because these criteria are already contained in Chapter 1.2.1., and replacing the word “demand” with “propose” in the explanatory note to criterion 7 in Article 1.1.2.1. The revised disease listing criteria now proposed for adoption had been appended to Part A of the March 2006 meeting report (Appendix IV to Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B).

Dr Bernoth noted that some Member Countries appear to have misunderstood the use of the listing criteria for an emerging aquatic animal disease (e.g. abalone viral mortality). She clarified that there is only one list of diseases (Chapter 1.1.3.), whereas there are two pathways for a disease to become listed: either to meet the main criteria in Article 1.1.2.1., or to meet criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease in Article 1.1.2.2. She stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission recognises the need to review the status of diseases listed using the criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease after an appropriate time period and stressed that this had been added to the Commission’s work programme.

149. **Definitions for the *Aquatic Code***

Dr Bernoth reported that Chile, the EC and the United States of America had commented on the proposed definitions for the following terms: “Competent Authority”, “Veterinary Administration” and “Veterinary statutory body”. She explained that these proposed definitions were introduced as a step towards further harmonisation of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and that while the *Terrestrial Code* definitions were being reassessed, the proposed definitions for the *Aquatic Code* are now proposed for adoption. Dr Bernoth also appreciated Chile’s comment on the need for definitions of “case” and “epidemiological unit” and for providing constructive proposals for these. The Aquatic Animals Commission will consider these proposals at its next meeting.

The changes since August 2005 to the revised and new definitions reflect Member Country comments on “infection” and on “susceptible species” and an editorial correction to “Competent Authority”. The revised and new disease listing criteria now proposed for adoption had been appended to Part A of the March 2006 meeting report (Appendix III to Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B).

150. ***Aquatic Manual***

Dr Bernoth updated the OIE International Committee on the finalisation of the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. She stressed that the provision of an entirely new template to chapter authors had led to delays with the preparation of draft chapters. She assured Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered all Member Country comments on the drafts circulated in late 2005 and had either addressed those comments directly or, for example, because of the highly technical nature of some comments, had referred them back to authors of the relevant chapter. Authors had been asked to address these comments and have amended the chapters as necessary before this General Session.

Dr Bernoth also pointed out that some Member Countries had suggested improved consistency among individual disease chapters, in particular regarding the provision of criteria for suspect and confirmed cases. Dr Bernoth explained that these comments were very valuable, but it had been too late for detailed consideration prior to finalising the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. She emphasised that, in the Commission’s view, there is also the need for greater coordination of the three chapters providing general information on diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, respectively, because these chapters lay the foundations for the subsequent disease-specific chapters; improved consistency between these chapters would aid readability and assist in minimising confusion for readers. The Commission has therefore proposed to the Director General to consider convening a new *ad hoc* Group that focuses on these non-technical issues. Surveillance-specific comments will be referred to the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance.

Dr Bernoth drew the OIE International Committee’s attention to *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 1.1.4. entitled “Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection”. She explained that while it had unfortunately not been possible to prepare an updated version of that chapter for the fifth edition, Terms of reference had now been finalised for the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance, which included the revision of that chapter. After the adoption of the fifth edition (2006) of the *Aquatic Manual*, the production of a new hard-copy edition of the *Aquatic Manual* is at least two years away, but the opportunity exists to publish updates in the web-based version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

151. OIE Reference Laboratories

Annual reports were received from all 27 Reference Laboratories. The Commission acknowledges the valuable participation of these laboratories and the support they provide to Member Countries and the Commission.

The Aquatic Animals Commission received the nomination of Dr Isabelle Arzul at the Reference Laboratory for *Bonamia ostreae*, *B. exitiosa*, *Mikrocytos roughleyi*, *Marteilia sydneyi* and *M. refringens* at La Tremblade (France). The Commission also received the application for Reference Laboratory status from the University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (United States of America), for infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*, with Dr Carolyn Friedman as the expert. The Commission reviewed the application and nominations and recommends their acceptance.

152. Continuing work on harmonisation of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*

Dr Bernoth emphasised that the need to harmonise OIE approaches to aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases continues to be one of the main motivations for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. She reported that while progress has been on-going in the areas of disease listing criteria, notification and epidemiological information and data entry forms, work still needed to be done especially on zoning and compartmentalisation, aquatic animal health surveillance, model aquatic animal health certificates, and on disposal of carcasses and wastes of aquatic animals.

153. Aquatic animal welfare

Dr Bernoth drew the OIE International Committee's attention to the new draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines that are currently with Member Countries for comment. She explained that a set of principles for the welfare of aquatic animals as well as four sets of proposed guidelines (slaughter of farmed fish for human consumption; humane killing of fish for disease control purposes; transport by land; and transport by sea) had been developed by two aquatic *ad hoc* Groups that had been chaired by Prof. Håstein and operated under the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare. As a result of recommendations made by this Working Group, the principles for aquatic animal welfare were harmonised as far as possible with the corresponding text contained in the *Terrestrial Code*.

On behalf of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Bernoth acknowledged and supported the quality of the work of the aforementioned two aquatic *ad hoc* Groups and strongly encouraged Delegates to provide comments on the draft text.

154. OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health: defining roles and responsibilities

Dr Bernoth drew the OIE International Committee's attention to the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health due to be held in Bergen, Norway, from 9 to 12 October 2006. This conference is being organised with the kind support of the Norwegian Government. The purpose of the conference is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for the exchange of the latest scientific information on aquatic animal health research as well as control and prevention strategies for aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the OIE International Committee at the 72nd General Session had endorsed a set of recommendations to improve cooperation between veterinary and fisheries authorities on aquatic animal health matters in order to facilitate the implementation of the international obligations of Member Countries.

Among the specific recommendations are that the OIE “reinforce to Delegates their responsibility to the OIE for terrestrial as well as aquatic animals”; “request Member Countries to clarify the roles and responsibilities for aquatic animal health assigned to veterinary and other authorities in their country”; and “provide opportunities to assist cooperation between veterinary and other authorities responsible for aquatic animal health in Member Countries...”. Recommendations for Member Countries include that they “request their Veterinary Services to improve the communication and cooperation with fishery authorities, especially regarding disease reporting and disease emergency responses”.

This OIE conference will provide an opportunity to assist the OIE and its Member Countries in exchanging the latest information on developing a science-based approach to the management of aquatic animal health and welfare, and to present the valuable experience gained in the past few years.

The presentations and discussions will assist in the evaluation and improvement of the current standards and guidelines for better control of infectious aquatic animal diseases and countries’ capabilities to prepare for and respond to aquatic animal disease emergencies, as well as better defining roles and responsibilities.

The draft programme includes sessions on:

- Co-operation among stakeholders in aquatic animal disease management;
- Infrastructure for disease surveillance and emergency response;
- Communication and networking;
- Education and training needs in aquatic animal health; and
- Aquatic animal welfare.

Details of the draft programme are available on the OIE Web site. Experts have been invited to give oral presentations and present posters. The final recommendations and conclusions will be presented for adoption, and the proceedings will be published.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that the conference registration fee has been waived for Delegates or their nominees and encouraged registrations for this important event.

155. **Other new activities**

Dr Bernoth was pleased to report that two new *ad hoc* Groups would assist the Aquatic Animals Commission in its work. The *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Feed will be asked to provide scientific assessments and advice on the safety of aquatic animal feed, and the primary role of the *ad hoc* Group on Amphibian Diseases will be to advise on whether amphibians should be included in the Commission’s remit.

Dr Bernoth also reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission is working on a position paper to provide guidelines on listing and notification of diseases by strain/genotype, with multiple examples in finfish, mollusc and crustacean diseases where differences in virulence have been documented for different strains/genotypes of the pathogenic agents of listed diseases. This activity is in preparation for a special workshop to be held at the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, Brazil, December 2006.

Finally, Dr Bernoth reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission with the assistance of Australian experts is helping the OIE to coordinate an issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* on “Changing Trends in Managing Aquatic Animal Disease Emergencies”, due to be published in April 2008.

156. Work programme for 2006–2007

Dr Bernoth closed her presentation by drawing the OIE International Committee’s attention to the Aquatic Animals Commission’s work programme for the rest of the year 2006 and for the year 2007, as detailed in the March 2006 meeting report (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS4 B).

157. Following Dr Bernoth’s presentation, the President opened the discussion on the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

158. The Representative of the Canadian Delegation thanked Dr Bernoth for her presentation and the excellent work that the Commission had carried out in a very short time. She asked that a definition of ‘veterinary para-professional’ be considered for inclusion in the *Aquatic Code*. She also asked whether strain differentiation could be addressed with respect to pathogenicity and host range, acknowledging that this issue would be discussed at the forthcoming OIE Conferences in Norway and Brazil. Dr Bernoth said that the Commission would indeed consider a definition for ‘veterinary para-professionals’ taking into account the definition in the *Terrestrial Code*. Regarding strain differentiation, she recognised that the Brazil Conference would present a good opportunity to start to address this issue.

159. The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf on the European Union (EU), requested assurance that the comments sent by the EC in February 2006 would be addressed by the Commission at a later date. She welcomed the work done by the Commission and stated that the EU would support adoption of the proposed texts. She asked, however, that the Commission reconsider the use of animal health certificates for dead molluscs or their products as well as eviscerated fish products. Finally, she asked that disinfected eggs be included in the list of safe commodities for certain diseases. Dr Bernoth assured the EU that the Commission addresses all Member Country comments although the report does not include every comment made or an explanation of how the Commission dealt with it. She explained that a health certificate, even for dead molluscs and their products or eviscerated fish products, is necessary to attest the health status of the exporting country, especially if the country claims to be free from the disease in question. The Commission had considered listing disinfected eggs as a safe commodity, but thought that scientific evidence that they pose no risk was necessary before their inclusion could be proposed.

160. The Delegate of Chile thanked the Commission for the work on aquatic animal health standards it had carried out over the past three years. He reiterated some concerns that Chile had expressed on the report of the August meeting, in particular the proposed delisting of BKD, IPN and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*. He sought clarification of the consequences that this delisting would have on the corresponding chapters in the *Aquatic Code*. He said that the term “several countries” in criterion 7 of Chapter 1.1.2. on disease listing needs to be clarified taking into account the approach used in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Bernoth reiterated that the list of diseases (Chapter 1.1.3. of the *Aquatic Code*) is for reporting purposes and that specific disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code* provide guidance for Member Countries in setting import regulations. She said that the practice of having a difference between the listed diseases and the disease chapters is not a new concept for the OIE, and examples exist in the *Terrestrial Code*. She finally stated that the Commission would compare the disease listing criteria in both *Codes* in light of the ongoing process of harmonisation.

161. The Delegate of Norway thanked Dr Bernoth for the continued excellence of the work of the Commission. She highlighted the importance of the new work undertaken by the Commission in the area of aquatic animal welfare, stating that Norway is in the process of adopting standards for transport and slaughter of aquatic animals. She said that Norway, after thorough consideration of the matter, supports the delisting of BKD, IPN and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini* because the *Aquatic Code* chapters on these diseases will be retained. Finally, she invited all the Delegates to participate at the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health to be held in Bergen, Norway, in October 2006.
162. The Committee noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV

Adoption of the fifth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

163. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXV on the Adoption of the fifth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXV at the end of this report.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

164. Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the Commission's activities, including the outcome of routine Commission meetings held in May 2005 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 A), January 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 B) and March 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 C). He also outlined the salient recommendations and observations made by the various *ad hoc* Groups functioning under the auspices of the Commission, namely the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*; the *ad hoc* Group on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); the *ad hoc* Group on Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP); the *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Zoonoses; the *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks; the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology; the *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue Surveillance; the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis; the *ad hoc* Group on Aujeszky's Disease; and the Expert Group on BSE Diagnostic Methods - the Need for Standardisation. Prof. Caporale, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by Dr Vallat and the staff at the OIE headquarters, in particular the staff of the Scientific and Technical Department. Prof. Caporale addressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups reporting to the Scientific Commission.
165. **Review of the annual work programme**

At its May 2005 meeting (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 A), the Bureau of the Commission reviewed the plan of activities for the coming year in accordance with the Commission's Plan of Action and the directives given by the International Committee during the 73rd General Session. During the March 2006 meeting (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 C) the Commission reviewed its progress with the plan of action for 2003 to 2006 and was in general satisfied that most of the objectives had been achieved. It was agreed however, that the Commission should become more involved in scientific-based decision making and requested the Director

General that the Commission be consulted for scientific justification of proposed OIE international standards, in accordance with its Terms of Reference. It was also noted that several scientific activities of the OIE are carried out by other Specialist Commissions without the Scientific Commission being consulted even though such consultations are one of the principles included in the Commission's Terms of Reference.

166. Review of activities during the past three-year period

During this three-year period, the Scientific Commission has been concerned with the following:

- Assessing the status of six countries with regard to BSE: the Commission concluded that four new countries could be recognised as BSE free and two new countries as provisionally free of BSE.
- Assessing the status of three countries for CBPP status: the Commission concluded that two new countries could be recognised as free from CBPP.
- Assessing the status of 31 countries or zones with regard to rinderpest: the Commission reached the following conclusions: seven countries can be recognised as free from rinderpest disease, 20 countries as free from rinderpest infection and two countries as having zones free from rinderpest disease; the applications from two countries were not approved.
- Assessing the status of 14 countries or zones with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD). Twelve proposals were evaluated and the Commission recommends that the International Committee approve the recognition of either the entire territory or a specific zone of these 12 new countries as free from FMD.
- The following *Terrestrial Code* chapters were developed or extensively revised: Guidelines for carcass disposal, Guidelines for antigen and vaccine banks, General surveillance for animal health, Surveillance for avian influenza, Surveillance for FMD, Surveillance for classical swine fever (CSF), Surveillance for Aujeszky's disease, Bluetongue, Surveillance for bluetongue, Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Guidance on BSE diagnostic tests, and Compartmentalisation.

Review of activities in 2005

167. Guidelines for the surveillance of bluetongue

The Commission approved the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue and Bluetongue Surveillance and submitted it to the Code Commission for circulation and comments from Member Countries.

168. Expert Group on "BSE Diagnostic Methods: The Need for Standardisation"

The Commission approved the report of the Expert Group on "BSE Diagnostic Methods: The Need for Standardisation". It noted the need for standardisation of BSE diagnostic methods. The Commission will, however, be able to make progress on this issue if more scientific information is available for the criteria and terminology, in particular if the definition of "BSE case" is adopted, as this has a relevant impact on surveillance.

169. Antigen and vaccine banks for FMD

The Commission approved the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for FMD and noted the valuable information that has been generated. The Commission proposed the inclusion of a text on vaccine matching tests in the FMD chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission also approved the constitution of the OIE/FAO FMD Network of Expertise for FMD Reference Laboratories and requested that a member of the Scientific Commission be a member of the Steering Committee of the Network.

170. Emerging zoonoses

The Commission reviewed and approved the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Zoonoses and encourages the Veterinary Authorities of Member Countries to collaborate closely with their public health counterparts on matters related to emerging zoonoses.

171. General guidelines for animal health surveillance

The Commission reviewed and approved the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on Chapter 3.8.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* on General guidelines for animal health surveillance. This work had been carried out in accordance with Member Country comments.

172. FMD

a) Guidelines for the surveillance of FMD

The Commission reviewed and approved the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on Appendix 3.8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the surveillance of FMD. This work had been carried out in accordance with Member Country comments.

b) Evaluation of country status for FMD

During the past year, applications for the obtainment of FMD free country/zone status, with or without vaccination, were considered by the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD.

Based on the recommendations of this *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

1. That a zone of Bolivia situated in the western part of the Department of Oruro be recognised by the OIE as a zone free of FMD with vaccination.
2. That Belarus be recognised by the OIE as a country free from FMD without vaccination. This recommendation was based on additional electronic information supplied to the *ad hoc* Group.
3. That Serbia and Montenegro (including the territory of Kosovo administered by the United Nations) be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD without vaccination. This recommendation was based on additional electronic information supplied to the *ad hoc* Group.

These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXVI.

173. Evaluation of country status for rinderpest

The Scientific Commission reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest. Based on the recommendations of this *ad hoc* Group, the Commission adopted the following recommendations:

- a) That Chad, Sudan, Uganda and a zone of Kenya be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest disease.
- b) That Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo (Rep. of), Congo (Dem. Rep. of), Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Mali, Myanmar, Rwanda and Zambia, be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest infection.

These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXVIII.

174. Evaluation of country status for CBPP

The Scientific Commission reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Country Status for CBPP and adopted the following recommendation:

That Australia be recognised as a country free from CBPP.

This recommendation is submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXIX

175. Evaluation of country status for BSE

The Scientific Commission reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of country status for BSE and adopted the recommendation that Australia be recognised as a BSE free country, and that Chile and Paraguay be recognised as countries provisionally free from BSE.

During its meeting in January 2006, the Commission did not adopt some of the *ad hoc* Group's recommendations regarding three Members Countries. To enable a transparent decision-making process and to finalise the recommendations of the Commission to the International Committee of the OIE, it was decided that the *ad hoc* Group would be offered an opportunity to discuss its recommendations with the Commission during the meeting in March 2006, taking into consideration additional information supplied by the countries concerned.

The Commission therefore held discussions with two members of the *ad hoc* Group and an invited expert on epidemiology from an OIE Collaborating Centre. During the review process, the Commission consulted complementary information supplied by the applicant countries and also asked two experts from two OIE Collaborating Centres for an opinion in view of the additional information submitted.

After detailed discussions, the Commission resolved to propose to the International Committee of the OIE that Argentina, New Zealand, and Uruguay be listed as BSE disease free countries.

These recommendations have been submitted to the Member Countries for comment and are submitted to the International Committee for approval (Draft Resolution No. XXVII).

176. Guidelines for the surveillance of classical swine fever

The Commission reviewed and approved the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on the appendix of the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the surveillance of classical swine fever (CSF), and noted some contradictions in the chapter already adopted on CSF and the proposed guidelines.

177. Concept paper on compartmentalisation

After a joint discussion with the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission prepared a concept paper on compartmentalisation with specific guidelines on the role of the Veterinary Services, animal identification, and the role of the OIE in establishing standards by which Member Countries can assess the viability of compartments or other initiatives (zoning). The concept paper has been circulated to Member Countries with the report of meeting of the Scientific Commission in January 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS3 B) and will be published in the next issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*.

178. General guidelines for the disposal of carcasses

The Commission approved the document prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on Carcass Disposal and reviewed by the Code Commission following comments from Member Countries. The Commission recommended its adoption.

179. *Terrestrial Code* chapter on brucellosis

The Commission reviewed and approved the revised *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine brucellosis prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis, and forwarded it to the Code Commission.

180. Guidelines for the surveillance of Aujeszky's disease

The Scientific Commission noted the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Aujeszky's Disease, and forwarded the proposed appendix on surveillance to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology. The Group will review the guidelines for consistency and also to determine whether there is a need for the inclusion of provisions relating to compartmentalisation.

181. New revised questionnaires for FMD, rinderpest and BSE country status recognition

The Commission reviewed and approved the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on the questionnaires on FMD, rinderpest and BSE, which had been revised in light of recent changes made to the *Terrestrial Code*.

182. Annual OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network Report

The Scientific Commission reviewed the first report of the OIE/FAO FMD Network of expertise and congratulated the experts on their excellent work.

183. Sequential zoning, zoning and regionalisation

The Commission noted and approved the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology with regard to zoning and regionalisation. The Commission discussed in detail the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group on the potential problems inherent in the process of sequential zoning for freedom of disease within a country and the need for the establishment of biosecurity measures and separation by a buffer zone between zones of different health status within a country. The Commission agreed that, in the event of a disease outbreak in a disease free zone in a country comprising several zones with similar status and sequentially approved for that country, the disease-free status of all the zones with similar status in the country concerned should be withdrawn pending confirmation from the Official Delegate of that

country that sufficient sanitary measures are in operation to prevent the entry of virus into the other, non-affected zones.

The Commission also considered the need to facilitate and expedite the decision-making process to assign the status of freedom from FMD following an outbreak of the disease in a country or zone

A Resolution is being submitted to the International Committee for approval (Draft Resolution No. XXX), so as to give the Commission a mandate to propose the appropriate modifications to the *Terrestrial Code*.

The President of the Scientific Commission attended the meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases held at the OIE headquarters in February 2006. This Working Group functions under the auspices of the Scientific Commission.

184. After the presentation of the report, the President opened discussions on the various issues raised.
185. The Delegate of India requested clarification of the status of the dossier submitted by India for recognition of country status for CBPP. Dr Gideon Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, assured the Delegate that the additional information requested by the Commission from India following the initial evaluation of the dossier had been received at the Central Bureau, but too late to be considered for evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group on the recognition of country status for CBPP. This will now be done during the next meeting of the *ad hoc* Group.
186. The Delegate of Swaziland congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation. He requested more clarification on the need for a higher level in the results of surveillance surveys for freedom from FMD mentioned by Prof. Caporale, given that the confidence level in the *Terrestrial Code* is 95%. Prof. Caporale explained that a 100% level of confidence is not possible and it is also not possible to demonstrate the absence of viral circulation with absolute certainty. The Commission is committed, however, to seeking scientific support to improve the level of confidence and will therefore continue to consult experts on this important issue.
187. The Delegate of Canada congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Commission and its *ad hoc* Groups and the transparent manner in which information was reported. He enquired about the future use and application of the concept paper on compartmentalisation as well as the implementation of the revised epidemiology questionnaire for BSE in the evaluation of country applications for the recognition of BSE status. Prof. Caporale confirmed that new country applications will be evaluated using the new questionnaire and the new categories for country classification. The President of the Code Commission, Dr Alejandro Thiermann, also indicated that he will provide more details on the country evaluation process and on the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on BSE in his presentation to the International Committee on the activities of the Code Commission. The Director General of the OIE acknowledged that Delegates could sometimes be confused with the specific roles and mandates of the Scientific and Code Commissions. He explained for the benefit of new Delegates that the mandate of the Scientific Commission is to provide the scientific basis for standards that are developed and proposed by the Code Commission and then incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code* chapters after adoption by the International Committee. He confirmed that the document on compartmentalisation will be published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* and that the Code Commission will use this published document as well as other publications to develop a more comprehensive text on compartmentalisation for the *Terrestrial Code*.

188. The Delegate of Japan, after commending Prof. Caporale and the members of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups, indicated that in many cases Japan had difficulty in accepting the Commission's decisions on the recognition of disease free status. He expressed concern that the evaluations are mostly a theoretical exercise as the findings are not always supported by on-site visits to applicant countries by the Commission or *ad hoc* Groups to verify the information in the dossiers, and that the description in the evaluation report is sometimes unclear and lacking in transparency. He then expressed his hope that the procedure for free status recognition would be reviewed in future, and this was duly noted by the President of the Commission. Prof. Caporale indicated that in certain instances on-site visits are conducted and that it will be the case this year for dossiers that have already been received. He emphasised, however, that the current procedure is based on trust, transparency and the integrity of Member Countries submitting dossiers for evaluation. Where on-site evaluations are not possible, the dossiers are nevertheless evaluated using a scientific basis provided by the relevant chapters and appendices in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Vallat added that the OIE is conducting evaluations for the recognition of country status for diseases as requested by the International Committee. The normal process is that an applicant country submits a dossier and information in response to the questionnaire. Where necessary, additional information is requested from the Member Country; inspections and, in some instances, hearings with delegations from the Member Country are also conducted by the specialist *ad hoc* Group and the Scientific Commission. The recommendations of the Commission are then submitted to all Delegates, who have 60 days to submit questions to or request information from the Delegate of the applicant country. Finally, the dossier is voted upon by the Delegates during the General Session. The procedure is therefore both transparent and democratic.
189. The Delegate of Australia assured Member Countries that having recently been involved in two evaluations for country freedom, the process conducted by the Commission is very thorough and scientifically sound. The evaluations are done at a precise point in time and the Commission is therefore dependent on Member Countries to supply any additional information on changes in the epidemiological situation. Countries wishing to conduct follow-up or their own on-site visits should feel free to do so; he reiterated that Australia has found the OIE process to be very good. He concluded by supporting the need expressed by the Scientific Commission for a definition of "BSE case".
190. The Delegate of Botswana indicated that the loss of free status in the event of an outbreak of FMD, even if only in a relatively small area of a country, has serious financial implications especially for countries that have made substantial financial investments in obtaining free status for the purpose of trade. Prof. Caporale responded by assuring the Delegate that his concerns were precisely those of the Commission and the OIE, and it is therefore with these concerns in mind that Draft Resolution No. XXX will be proposed for adoption.
191. In response to a question from the Delegate of the United States of America, Prof. Caporale confirmed that the epidemiological questionnaire that has been revised by the Scientific Commission will be used for the evaluation of country applications for recognition of BSE status.
192. The Committee noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI
Recognition of Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries**

193. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXVI for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVI at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

194. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXVII for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII
Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease

195. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXVIII for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

196. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIX for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIX at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXX
Procedure to Expedite the Process for the Recognition of a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone during an Outbreak of FMD in a Member Country

197. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXX for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXX at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

198. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Prof. Stuart Slorach, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, presented the Group's activities.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety was established in 2002 following a request from the International Committee of the OIE to strengthen the Organisation's activities in the food safety area and further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the fifth time at the OIE headquarters from 30 January to 1 February 2006. The following is a summary of the main discussions and the results of the meeting; the full report can be found as Appendix XXXVIII to the Report of the meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), which was held in Paris, France, from 6 to 10 March 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS1 B).

The Working Group reviewed the work going on in the OIE and the CAC on matters of common interest for both standard-setting organisations and welcomed the achievements but recognised the need to further improve coordination between the two organisations.

The main topics addressed by the Working Group are summarised below:

199. **Biotechnology**

The Working Group addressed the Resolution No. XXVIII adopted in 2005 by the International Committee on “Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products” and the terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology that were drawn up by the OIE Biological Standards Commission (Laboratories Commission) in accordance with that resolution. The *ad hoc* Group should work on two main topics in relation to biotechnology: vaccines and diagnostic tests, and cloning of animals. The Working Group discussed the terms of reference in light of the ongoing work in the CAC on the use of modern biotechnology and made several recommendations to the OIE and to the Laboratories Commission.

200. **Strengthening public health and animal health through responsible use of reliable, safe and effective veterinary drugs**

The work of the OIE on Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA) and the OIE’s collaboration with WHO, FAO, CAC and the VICH³⁰ were presented to the Working Group. The Working Group encouraged the CAC to decide as soon as possible on how it intended to cooperate with the OIE in its future work on antimicrobial resistance. The Working Group was informed that the WHO had already established a list of critically important antimicrobials for human use, as well as criteria for their selection. The Working Group encouraged the OIE to finalise its work on a list of VCIA as soon as possible. Once that list is available, OIE should discuss with WHO the recommendations both organisations should make on the use of critically important antimicrobials for both human and veterinary use.

201. **Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection**

In accordance with the discussion in the fourth meeting, the Secretariat had finalised the document “Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection” and had placed it on the OIE Web site as an information document. The Working Group addressed Member Country comments on the proposed Appendix on this subject for inclusion in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. This document had previously been refined by the Secretariat and subsequently the Code Commission had reviewed and amended the document and sent it for comment to OIE Member Countries.

The Working Group recommended that the Code Commission review the use of the terms “Veterinary Services”, “Veterinary Administration”, “Veterinary Authority” and “Competent Authority” in the *Terrestrial Code* for consistency; this should be done in line with the Fourth Strategic Plan’s direction for strengthening cooperation with other competent authorities.

202. **Role and functionality of Veterinary Services**

The document “Role and functionality of Veterinary Services” was redrafted. The Working Group decided to change the title of the document to “Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain” as this was a better description of the content of the document. The Working Group discussed and revised this document and recommended that it not be included in the *Terrestrial Code*, but published on the OIE Web site and in the OIE *Bulletin*, as well as presented to the CAC for information. A document on the “Role and functionality of Veterinary Services” would be developed in the future as part of this cooperation.

³⁰ VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

203. Guide to good farming practices (GGFP)

The Guide to Good Farming Practices (GGFP) had been revised, in accordance with the recommendations of the previous Working Group's meeting. This revised version had been submitted to the September 2005 meeting of the Code Commission, which noted the work of the FAO on good agricultural practice and recommended that, with regard to the Working Group document, the OIE and the FAO coordinate their work with the aim of the information being published by both organisations for the guidance of Member Countries and the public. The Working Group supported these views and considered that a contribution from the WHO and the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat should be sought to ensure that the public health aspects were appropriately taken into account. These guidelines would underpin additional on-farm measures introduced to reduce specific animal or public health hazards of concern in Member Countries.

204. Animal identification and traceability

The Working Group reviewed the work done by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Animal Identification and Traceability and addressed Member Country comments received. It acknowledged that traceability is important for public health, animal health and for other managerial reasons. The Working Group agreed that the OIE, in conjunction with the FAO, should prepare a document to assist the practical implementation of future OIE standards on animal identification and traceability. The Working Group congratulated the *ad hoc* Group for its constructive work and requested it to produce a revised version of Chapter 1.3.7. that takes into account the comments received from Member Countries and the Working Group's views and written comments. The *ad hoc* Group met in February and accordingly revised the set of principles and the related definitions. The *ad hoc* Group addressed the parallel work going on in Codex and welcomed the lack of gaps and contradictions between the OIE and Codex texts. The Code Commission endorsed and finalised the draft chapter on animal identification and traceability.

205. Bovine brucellosis

The Working Group had the following comments on the draft revised chapter on bovine brucellosis: the expression "Competent Authority" is more suitable than "Veterinary Administration" in Articles 2.3.1.10. and 2.3.1.11., and in these same two articles the name of the Codex Alimentarius standard for meat should be corrected to "Code of hygienic practice for meat". A comment on point 2 of Article 2.3.3.11. was passed on to the Code Commission for consideration. The Working Group noted how these revisions were similar to the changes applied the previous year to the bovine tuberculosis chapter and approved the general approach. The Working Group expressed its satisfaction that the animal production food safety aspects were addressed in these chapters.

206. Animal feeding

The Working Group was updated on the recent CAC work and ongoing discussions on animal feeding. The OIE involvement in this area was also discussed in the light of the respective mandates of the CAC and the OIE. The Working Group recognised the need for the OIE to set guidelines to address animal feed in order to complement the existing Codex Alimentarius and OIE international standards. The Working Group recommended that the OIE set up an *ad hoc* Group on animal feeding, and recommended terms of reference for such a group. It recommended that the membership of the *ad hoc* Group should be such that it complements the work of the CAC in this field.

207. The role of Veterinary Services in the reduction of biochemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level

The Working Group addressed the issue of the role of Veterinary Services in the reduction of biochemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level. It noted the interest of OIE Member Countries in this topic and also that the OIE Fourth Strategic

Plan requested the OIE to address this issue. After discussing the appropriate format for recommendations on this issue, the Working Group decided that this should be addressed in the framework of the GGFP. The Working Group also considered that this work should be done with cross-referencing to existing Codex Alimentarius standards (notably on veterinary drugs).

208. **Revision of OIE model certificates**

In follow-up to the Working Group's recommendation, the OIE had started to compare the OIE and Codex certification systems and had submitted its views to the latest Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification Systems (CCFICS) meeting. The OIE has also been involved in the work of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, and the Codex Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products.

The Working Group considered that the ongoing work in the CAC and the OIE was creating good opportunities for cooperation between the two organisations and recommended that it should be continued in order to obtain standards that would allow Member Countries to draw up single certificates that cover the entire food production chain.

The Working Group addressed the issue of electronic certification and considered the need for the OIE to address it in view of its future developments. For this purpose it believed that a standardised approach should be used in referring to the technical requirements of an electronic certification system. The Working Group noted that some CAC and other international requirements already referred to the UN-CEFACT³¹ body that globally promotes harmonisation of electronic certification systems for official and commercial purposes.

The Working Group recommended that the OIE continue to coordinate its work with the CAC (and especially the CCFICS) and enhance cooperation with other interested parties, outlining its proposal for combined certificates addressing the entire food chain, when this was possible. The Working Group requested the Director General to set up an *ad hoc* Group that would revise the current OIE work and update certification guidelines and model certificates.

209. **Salmonellosis**

The Working Group examined a discussion paper on salmonellosis, which had taken into account the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis, initially *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs. The paper is focused on the draft Code of hygienic practice for eggs and egg products prepared by the CCFH. The Working Group considered the draft Code to be an important tool for Member Countries to ensure safe and suitable eggs and egg products. While the Codex draft Code encompasses the whole food chain, the Working Group considered that the provisions contained in the draft Code on flock management and animal health could be expanded from the viewpoint of the OIE recommendations for controlling and eradicating animal diseases, including zoonoses.

The Working Group recommended that the Director General of the OIE appoint an *ad hoc* Group to develop draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. The standards should address methods for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in flocks, measures for control and eradication, as well as risk mitigation measures for affected commodities.

³¹ UN-CEFACT: United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

210. **Alternatives to formal notification for certain diseases of international significance**

The Working Group was informed that this item was being addressed by several bodies within the OIE. The Working Group acknowledged that official notification was an important tool for controlling the international spread of diseases, but considered that other risk assessment and risk management instruments exist and encouraged the OIE to continue exploring them.

211. **Work programme**

The Working Group revised its work programme, which for 2006/2007 includes a) horizontal issues (animal identification and traceability, certification, antimicrobial resistance, alternative approaches to risk management of zoonoses, good farming practices – reduction of biochemical hazards, guidelines for animal feeding), b) disease-specific texts (brucellosis, salmonellosis), c) strengthening the relationship between the OIE and Codex, and d) development of new texts (role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety).

212. ***Modus operandi* of the Working Group**

The Working Group considered the results accomplished in its fifth meeting to be very positive and supported this *modus operandi* being applied for future meetings. The Working Group recognised the OIE International Committee's concerns on the need for transparency in the working procedures of the OIE (as stated in the Fourth Strategic Plan). On this basis, the Working Group made some minor amendments to the *modus operandi* adopted at the previous meeting. The Working Group recommended the elaboration of a paper clarifying its role and working procedures and that such a paper be made available to interested parties.

213. **Discussion on hazards and risks**

There was a brief discussion on a draft paper tabled by Dr McKenzie, Executive Director of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, relating to hazards and risks and their use in international standards. Elements of the paper were discussed at the Codex Committee on General Principles in April 2006. It was agreed that a further paper would be developed for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

214. The President of the OIE International Committee thanked the Working Group for its commitment and Dr Slorach for his contribution to the activities of the Working Group. He noted that this was the area of work with the highest level of cooperation between the OIE and the CAC.

215. Dr Thiermann underlined the excellent contribution of the Working Group on the development of the draft *Terrestrial Code* texts on "Animal Identification and Traceability" and "Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection". These texts will be discussed later during the week.

216. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXII
Animal Production Food Safety**

217. The President submitted draft Resolution No. XXII for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXII at the end of this report.

218. Working Group on Animal Welfare

Dr David Bayvel, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, presented the report on the Group's activities.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare met for the fourth time from 7 to 9 September 2005. This meeting was hosted by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Food Safety, Epidemiology and Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy. The meeting was also attended by staff from Teramo, as well as experts from the International Meat Secretariat, the International Dairy Federation, and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. An informal meeting was held, earlier in the year, in May and was attended by those members of the Working Group present at the 73rd General Session, Central Bureau staff and staff from the Teramo Collaborating Centre.

The Working Group chair also participates in bi-monthly teleconferences with OIE Central Bureau staff to discuss progress on the animal welfare work programme.

At its September 2005 meeting, the Working Group agreed on the following priorities:

- Ongoing revision of guidelines adopted in 2005 for land transport, sea transport, slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes.
- Development of aquatic animal welfare guidelines for the transport of fish by land, and by sea, the killing of fish and the slaughter of fish for human consumption.
- Supporting international animal welfare educational initiatives via regional coordination with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).
- Ongoing communication initiatives including the promulgation and marketing of the issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* on "Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges".
- Further progress with the following new areas of strategic priority agreed at the 2005 OIE General Session:
 - Companion animal welfare – stray animal control (an *ad hoc* Group has already met)
 - Wildlife and zoo animal welfare – harvesting/ culling (a paper on this topic has been commissioned)
 - Laboratory animal welfare – housing, animal use in regulatory testing and alternatives to animal use (October 2006 meeting in conjunction with the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science [ICLAS] and involving all major international stakeholders)
 - Terrestrial farm animal welfare – housing/production (generic issues are to be addressed first) (a paper on this topic has been completed)
- Monitoring EU Welfare Quality Project (www.welfarequality.net)
- Consolidating, and further developing, relationships with international stakeholders.

Progress made in relation to aquatic animal welfare guidelines, plans for engagement with the international laboratory animal science/welfare community and the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group on Stray Animal Control are all worthy of note.

The Working Group continues to see active involvement of all OIE Member Countries as being critical to the further development of OIE activities. This involvement requires close liaison and collaboration with academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The Working Group recommends active involvement of OIE Regional Commissions in promoting animal welfare educational initiatives.

The Working Group continues to see communication as a critical priority area, with the OIE Web site and the OIE *Bulletin* playing important roles. The OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* issue on “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges” provides a unique international source of information, and has further emphasised the OIE’s leadership role.

219. The President of the International Committee congratulated the Working Group for its work on a very complex subject. He considered that it had made very good progress and was meeting Member Countries’ expectations.
220. Dr Thiermann thanked the Member Countries for their input and support for this important work.
221. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV
Animal Welfare**

222. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIV for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIV at the end of this report.

≡ WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2006 ≡

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

**Presentations by International Organisations
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)**

International Equestrian Federation

223. Dr Frits Sluyter, Head of the FEI³² Veterinary Department, reported on that organisation’s activities.
224. The OIE and FEI collaborate on several ongoing projects.
225. Firstly, the OIE and the FEI have successfully completed missions to Beijing, People’s Republic of China (December 2004) and Hong Kong (April 2006). The purpose of these missions was to provide technical advice and assistance on animal sanitary issues related to the equestrian events for the 2008 Olympic Games, initially scheduled for Beijing. Following consultation with FEI and the experts who participated in the OIE mission, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) decided that Beijing would not be a suitable venue and thus the 2008 Equestrian Olympics will be held in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Jockey

³² FEI: International Equestrian Federation

Club have developed a plan for the venue, and discussions with the Hong Kong Veterinary Authorities have begun to decide on a protocol for the temporary importation of about 350 horses that will participate in the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games in 2008. The main point of discussion is equine influenza: although both groups of horses (Hong Kong local and FEI visiting horses) are on a similar 6-month vaccination schedule, there is still considerable concern regarding the possible importation of influenza through a carrier horse. Several options for pre-export quarantine and post-arrival isolation are being discussed. From an FEI perspective, the fact that FEI horses would be subject to a different protocol from that of visiting racehorses needs to be explained carefully to interested national federations.

226. Secondly, the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) has decided that the equine chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* need to be updated. This decision was very much welcomed by the International Movement of Horses Committee (FEI/Racing). A Working Group on Equine Influenza met from 28 February to 2 March 2006 in Paris, France, and reviewed the current chapter on equine influenza in the *Terrestrial Code*. Breeding and competition horses represent a different group of animal 'trade', as their movement is often temporary and, in the case of influenza, movement takes place between countries that are for the most part not free of the disease. A new text was drafted and discussed by the Code Commission, and the chapter has been circulated to OIE Delegates for comment. Other equine disease chapters are currently being revised. The FEI, as an organisation that is highly involved in movement of competition horses, supports the current revision of the equine disease chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

International Livestock Research Institute

227. Dr John McDermott, Deputy Director General of ILRI, reported on that organisation's activities.
228. ILRI conducts research on improving animal health for poverty reduction in three main areas. The first is in the development of vaccines and diagnostics for tropical animal diseases. This is done in partnership with advanced research institutes, national animal health services and the private sector. Currently there are specific research projects on East Coast fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, and trypanosomosis. A major new area in recent years is research into improving the quality and safety of livestock and livestock products to improve market access by poor livestock keepers. Research focuses on better assessing and managing risks to consumers, producers and market agents. Given the importance of avian influenza to the poor in developing countries, ILRI is developing research programmes with other research and development partners to refine short- and medium-term control strategies and better understand the risks, impacts and incentives for compliance in different poultry sectors. The third area of animal health research is in understanding the transmission and risks of zoonoses in livestock production systems in developing countries.

Report on Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006

229. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2005 and in the first months of 2006 (Doc. 74 SG/2).

230. In August 2005, Slovakia reported the first occurrence in the country of **infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)**, identified within the framework of the country's surveillance programme, in a farm in Galanta county, in the western part of the country. Also in August 2005, Spain reported its first occurrence of IPN, in rainbow trout in a farm in Loja district, Granada province.

In January 2005, Brazil reported the first occurrence in the country of **white spot disease**, in semi-closed farming systems in Santa Catarina. In August 2005, a second occurrence was reported, on a farm in the State of Ceará.

Morocco reported its first occurrence of infection with *Bonamia ostreae* in flat oysters, confirmed in October 2005. The infection was attributed to the introduction of new live aquatic animals.

231. Infection with *Streptococcus suis* is not an OIE-listed disease. In the People's Republic of China, between June and July 2005, high morbidity and mortality due to *Streptococcus suis* infection were observed in pigs in backyard type farms in 88 municipalities in 21 counties of the following eight regions in Sichuan province: Chengdu, Deyang, Luzhou, Mianyang, Nanchong, Neijiang, Zigong and Ziyang. The epizootic began in late June 2005, reached a peak around 20 July and then declined sharply. No new cases have occurred since 6 August 2005.

The disease also had a zoonotic impact. According to the WHO, up to 16 August 2005, the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China reported 215 cases of human disease associated with this event, including 39 deaths. No new human cases have been reported since 5 August 2005. Most human cases presented high fever, malaise, nausea and vomiting, followed by meningitis, subcutaneous haemorrhage, toxic shock and coma in severe cases. Nearly all of the affected persons were reported to be local farmers and butchers. According to information published by Chinese scientists (*PlosMedicine*, Volume 3, issue 5, May 2006), a similar outbreak occurred in 1998 in Jiangsu Province, in which 14 of the 25 persons infected died.

232. Regarding **foot and mouth disease (FMD)**, the main epidemiological event to have occurred in Africa in 2006 is the occurrence of the disease due to virus serotype A in Egypt, where 18 outbreaks of FMD were reported in February 2006 in several Governorates, namely Alexandria, Behera, Cairo, Dakahlia, Dumyat, Fayum, Ismailia, and Menofia. While serotype O is known to occur in Egypt and vaccination against FMD type O₁ is undertaken on a regular basis, this constitutes a new introduction of serotype A to Egypt and indeed to North Africa and the Middle East region. The source of the virus was attributed to the introduction of live animals from an infected country. Vaccination against FMD strain A is planned but has not yet taken place.

In September 2005, the Democratic Republic of Congo reported two outbreaks of FMD in Uvira. Identification of the virus types involved indicated the presence of four of the seven known FMD serotypes, namely, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 and A.

In August 2005, an outbreak of FMD due to virus serotype SAT2 affected cattle in Kasane district in the North Western administrative region of Botswana, near the border with Zimbabwe.

In the Americas, in February 2006, two outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O occurred in Argentina in the Province of Corrientes. All susceptible animals (46,904 bovines, 1,887 small ruminants, 63 pigs) in the periferical areas were vaccinated using a trivalent inactivated vaccine (O, A, C). These were the first outbreaks of FMD in Argentina reported to the OIE since August 2003.

Colombia reported an outbreak of FMD in March 2005. The outbreak occurred in the University of Bogota's research unit in the urban area of Bogota, Department of Cundinamarca. FMD virus serotype A24 Cruzeiro was isolated. Laboratory results demonstrated that the outbreak was caused by a laboratory virus strain. These laboratory results, taken in conjunction with the epidemiological investigations carried out around the outbreak and in in-contact farms, ruled out any possibility of a field strain having been responsible for the outbreak. The Department of Cundinamarca is a zone of the country where FMD is considered to be endemic. This outbreak was the first to be confirmed in this area since September 2002 (i.e. for 29 months).

Foot and mouth disease was reported in Brazil in October 2005. Outbreaks occurred in the States of Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná up to February 2006. The virus involved was serotype O. In the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, stamping out was completed and a total of 33,741 susceptible animals were culled (32,549 cattle, 566 pigs and 626 small ruminants) by the end of March 2006.

In Asia, in May 2005, the People's Republic of China reported to the OIE outbreaks of FMD due to virus type Asia 1 in Wuxi city, Huishan district, Jiangsu province, and in Tai'an city, Daiyue district, Shandong province, both of which are in the eastern part of the country. In June 2005, an outbreak was reported in Zhangjiakou city, Hebei province. Between December 2005 and March 2006, the People's Republic of China reported several outbreaks: in Zhangjiakou city, Hebei province; in Zhongwei city, Ningxia Autonomous Region; in Xuzhou city, Jiangxi province; in JiNan city, ShanDong province; and in Zhangye city and Tianshui city, Gansu province.

In March 2005, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) reported an outbreak of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 in imported cattle in lairage in a slaughterhouse located in Sheung Shui, New Territories.

In February 2006, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories reported outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O in cattle and sheep in Hebron, Jerusalem and Gaza.

On 7 February 2006, Turkey reported the reoccurrence of FMD in Thrace region. The outbreak, which was caused by virus serotype A, occurred in the province of Kirklareli. Further outbreaks were subsequently reported in the provinces of Kirklareli, Tekirdag and Edirne. These were the first outbreaks of FMD in Thrace region since an outbreak due to virus serotype O in June 2001. FMD is endemic in the Anatolia region of Turkey.

In Israel, an outbreak of FMD due to virus serotype O occurred in a farm located in Tsefat district, HaTsafon region, on 20 December 2005. The previous outbreak of FMD in Israel occurred in March 2004.

In 2005, outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 were reported for the first time in Russia. The first outbreak was in June 2005, in farms located in Amur region. Subsequent outbreaks occurred in the Territories of Khabarovsk and Primorskiy in September 2005, in Mikhailovsky, Amur region, and in Viazemsky, Khabarovsk Territory, near the border with the People's Republic of China, in December 2005, and in a village in Kalgansky, Chitinskaya region, in January 2006.

233. In Africa, prior to 2005, the presence of **classical swine fever (CSF)** was confined to Madagascar and Mauritius. In July 2005, South Africa reported outbreaks of CSF in Western Cape Province, the first outbreaks of the disease to be reported in South Africa since 1918. Several outbreaks have been reported in neighbouring Eastern Cape Province. The disease does not appear to be under control. There is a risk of spread to other provinces and even to other countries, especially if wild boars are infected.

In March 2006, Brazil reported the reoccurrence of CSF in domestic pigs. One outbreak occurred in a smallholding rearing and breeding pigs in the State of Paraíba and a second outbreak occurred in a similar smallholding in the State of Ceará. The previous outbreak of CSF in Brazil reported to the OIE was in the State of Ceará in June 2004.

In February 2006, Bulgaria reported the occurrence of CSF in pigs in backyard farms in Malko Sharkovo village, Yambol. This was the first occurrence of CSF in domestic pigs in Bulgaria since May 2004.

In March 2006, Germany notified the reoccurrence of CSF in domestic pigs in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In January 2005, Russia reported the reoccurrence of CSF. The outbreak occurred in Suzdal district, Vladimir region, in a herd of pigs raised under a village type production system. In February 2005, outbreaks of CSF were reported in Moscow region and in Komi Republic. Following investigations, the outbreak in Suzdal district, Vladimir region, was attributed to the transport and trade of contaminated meat-and-bone meal illegally imported to or produced on Russian territory.

234. In April 2006, Zambia reported outbreaks of **African swine fever** in January and February 2006, marking the reoccurrence of the disease in that country.
235. Sweden notified the first occurrence of **bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** in its territory. The disease was identified in a crossbred beef cow, born in 1994, which had been culled, due to problems with its hind limbs, and sent for destruction. The cow belonged to a herd of 50 beef cows and their calves.

Canada confirmed a case of BSE in Alberta in January 2005 and the United States of America reported its second confirmed indigenous case, in a beef cow in the State of Alabama in March 2006.

Reported BSE cases in 2005

Country	Number of cases	Number of bovines aged over 24 months	Annual BSE incidence per million bovines aged over 24 months
Austria	2	945,951	2.11
Belgium	2	1,381,678	1.45
Canada	1	6,900,000	0.14
Czech Rep.	8	667,656	11.98
Denmark	1	775,513	1.29
France	31	11,400,000	2.72
Germany	32	6,445,088	4.97
Ireland	69	2,875,539	24.00
Israel
Italy	8	3,338,568	2.40
Japan	7	1,958,100	3.57
Luxembourg	1	91,947	10.88
Netherlands
Poland	19
Portugal	46	867,315	53.04
Slovakia	3	69,200	43.35
Slovenia	1	216,765	4.61
Spain	98	3,530,139	27.76
Switzerland	3	812,434	3.69
United Kingdom	225	4,903,240	45.88
United States of America	1	42,000,000*	0.02

... Missing data

* Number of adult cattle (the number of cattle aged over 24 months is not available)

236. Avian influenza

Of the South-East Asian countries affected by **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** in 2004, only Japan and the Republic of Korea have not reported any further outbreaks. In June 2005, low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) virus subtype H5N2 was reported in poultry farms located in Ibaraki and Saitama prefectures in Japan.

A case of a migratory bird infected with HPAI virus subtype H5N1 was reported in Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) in January 2005. Other cases in wild birds were reported during 2005 and at the beginning of 2006 and were detected as part of the avian influenza surveillance programme.

In April 2005, two outbreaks of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) were reported in the provinces of Kandal and Kompot in Cambodia. Other outbreaks were notified in poultry farms in Kompot and Kompong Speu provinces in March 2006.

In April 2005, the People's Republic of China reported the presence of H5N1 virus in migratory birds in Qinghai province. In June 2005, an outbreak in poultry occurred in Xinjiang autonomous region. In 2006, a few outbreaks have been reported in the provinces of Sichuan, Guizhou and Shanxi.

In February 2005, Indonesia reported outbreaks of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in the provinces of West Java, Central Java, East Java and South Celebes. In May 2005, the disease affected poultry in the provinces of Jambi, North Sumatra and East Kalimantan. In January 2006, outbreaks were reported in Aceh, Bali, Jakarta, Jambi, Jawa Barat, Jawa Tengah, Lampung, Riau, Sulawesi Selatan, Sulawesi Tenggara, Sumatera Barat, Sumatera Selatan, Sumatera Utara and Yogyakarta.

In August 2005, Mongolia reported that around 90 wild ducks, geese and swans found dead at Erhel and Khunt lakes had tested positive for HPAI virus subtype H5N1. No outbreaks have been reported in 2006.

In 2005, a decrease in the number of reported outbreaks was noted in the reports received from Thailand and Vietnam. No outbreaks have been reported by Thailand in 2006.

In January 2006, HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) occurred in India, in Navapur, Nandurbar district, State of Maharashtra.

In February 2006, Pakistan reported the disease in poultry at a layer farm and a breeder farm in Charsada and Abbottabad, North West Frontier.

In March 2006, Afghanistan reported the occurrence of the disease in several provinces. Also in March 2006, Myanmar reported outbreaks in poultry in Mandalay and Sagaing divisions.

In July 2005, the introduction of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 into the eastern part of Russia was suspected in five villages in Novosibirsk district, when a significant increase in mortality was observed among birds (geese, ducks, turkeys, chickens). The disease was later confirmed to be HPAI (virus subtype H5N1). This was the first indication that the disease had spread northwards from South-East Asia. Up to December 2005, Russia reported further outbreaks in Altai Territory and in the regions of Astrakhan, Novosibirsk, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Omsk, Tambov, Tiumen and Tula.

In July 2005, an outbreak of HPAI due to virus subtype H5N1 was reported in Kazakhstan. The affected poultry farm was located in Pavlodar region. The outbreak was declared ended in September 2005.

In October 2005, Turkey reported the first occurrence in its territory of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1). The outbreak occurred in a poultry farm in the province of Balikesir. This was the first documented expansion of the disease westwards. From the middle of December 2005 up to the date this report was compiled, outbreaks were reported in many provinces of the country.

In October 2005, Romania declared its first outbreak of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1). The outbreak occurred in a poultry farm in Tulcea County. Outbreaks subsequently occurred in the counties of Braila, Buzau, Calarasi and Ialomita. At the beginning of 2006, Romania reported further outbreaks in poultry farms, in the counties of Dolj, Constanta, Dambovita and Ilfov.

Croatia detected its first case of HPAI in a migratory bird in October 2005. Cases of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in wild birds were reported up to March 2006.

On 5 December 2005, Ukraine notified outbreaks of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in poultry in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea that had occurred on 25 November 2005.

In January 2006, HPAI virus subtype H5N1 was detected in wild birds in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Greece.

In February 2006, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland reported the detection of HPAI in wild birds.

In France, following the identification of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 in wild birds, the disease occurred in a turkey farm in Versailleux, Ain department, not far from where the first infected wild birds were detected.

At the end of February 2006, two outbreaks of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 occurred in domestic birds in Albania (Vlore State).

Sweden reported the detection of HPAI virus subtype H5 in a duck, sampled on 24 February 2006, that had been kept in a fenced holding containing farmed game birds in Kalmar County.

In March 2006, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland and the United Kingdom identified HPAI H5N1 in wild birds. To date, poultry have not been affected in these countries.

In March 2006, Serbia and Montenegro reported the occurrence of avian influenza virus subtype H5 in Bajina Basta, Zlatiborski County, in backyard type poultry in Bacevci village. A few days before, a dead swan (*Cygnus olor*) had been found near the river Drina not far from the village and was confirmed positive for HPAI virus subtype H5N1.

In April 2006, Germany confirmed the occurrence of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in a turkey farm in Mutzschen, Sachsen *Land*.

In the Middle East, Iraq reported the occurrence of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 in two villages, Sarkapkan and Dawaw, in Sulaimaniyah, bordering Turkey. The estimated date of the start of the event was 18 January 2006. Another outbreak was also reported in February 2006, affecting pigeons in Amarha, Missan province, in the south of the country.

In February 2006, Egypt reported the occurrence of HPAI virus subtype H5N1. The disease occurred in numerous governorates: Cairo, Giza, Menia, Qualiubia, Behera, Dakahlia, Alexandria, Beni Suef, Kafr el Shiekh, Qina, Fayoum, Dommiata, Sharkia, Monifia, Louxor, Ismailia and Sohag.

In March 2006, Israel reported the occurrence of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in poultry.

In March 2006, Jordan reported an outbreak of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in a backyard poultry farm (turkeys and chickens).

In February 2006, Iran reported the detection of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 in wild birds in Selkeh and Espand, Rasht, near the Caspian Sea, following the observation of high mortality in wild birds.

The introduction of HPAI into Africa seems to have occurred before its introduction into the Middle East and even into Western Europe. The first African country to notify HPAI virus subtype H5N1 was Nigeria, where high mortality was observed in poultry kept in battery cages in a commercial layer production unit in Igabi, Kaduna State, in the north of the country in early January 2006. HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) was confirmed in early February 2006 and outbreaks of the disease subsequently occurred in several States throughout the country.

In February 2006, Niger reported the introduction of HPAI (virus subtype H5N1) in Magaria, Zinder region, bordering the north of Nigeria.

In early March 2006, Cameroon reported the introduction of the disease in three duck farms in Diamaré, in Northernmost province, bordering Chad. The event started on 21 February 2006.

In Burkina Faso, an outbreak of the disease occurred in March 2006 at a tourist campsite in Gampéla, Kadiogo province, where 130 guinea-fowl were kept.

In April 2006, Cote d'Ivoire reported two outbreaks of HPAI in Abidjan district, one in backyard free-range chickens and ducks in Marcory Anoumabo commune, and the other, involving a wild sparrowhawk, in Treichville commune.

The above description of the disease distribution demonstrates the rapid spread of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 in Western Africa within only a few months of its being introduced into this region.

In April 2006, Sudan reported the occurrence of HPAI in the Capital, Khartoum, and in Gezira, where high mortality was observed in poultry farms.

Zimbabwe reported two outbreaks of avian influenza virus subtype H5N2 in farmed ostriches in November 2005. From the end of 2004 to the beginning of June 2005, South Africa reported outbreaks of HPAI (virus subtype H5) in ostrich farms located in the Northern Cape Province and Western Cape Province.

237. With regard to **sheep pox and goat pox**, five outbreaks of the disease were notified in four different provinces of Vietnam, namely Cao Bang, Bac Giang, Lang Son and Hà Tây. The first identified outbreak occurred in January 2005 and affected goats. This was the first occurrence of the disease in Vietnam. The introduction of the disease was attributed to the illegal introduction of animals from an infected country.
238. An important epidemiological event involving **lumpy skin disease** was its reintroduction into Egypt in January 2006 (date of start of the event), the first report of the disease in Egypt since 1990. Numerous outbreaks have been reported in Banisuef, Behera, Ismailia, Menofia and New Valley governorates.

239. Cuba reported evidence of the presence of infection with **West Nile fever (WNF)** virus in equids, based on the results of testing of samples collected in December 2004 within the framework of the country's surveillance programme for WNF.

In April 2006, Argentina officially reported the first occurrence of WNF in the country, two outbreaks having occurred in horses in San Antonio de Areco, in Buenos Aires province.

Animal Health Status in Member Countries

(Doc. 74 SG/14)

240. Dr Ben Jebara reviewed the situation regarding the use of the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) since its launch in April 2006. He described each country's status, mentioning those that had already connected to the system and had sent their weekly disease reports using WAHIS.

Dr Ben Jebara invited Member Countries that had not yet connected to WAHIS to do so quickly, as this would authorise their access to the WAHIS system of contact points.

Again on the subject of WAHIS, Dr Ben Jebara recommended that Member Countries check their general parameters, including the list and the names of primary administrative divisions, and validate the map featured on WAHIS. Should the maps fail to display the current situation, Dr Ben Jebara recommended sending a digitised map to the OIE Central Bureau.

241. The Delegate of **Argentina** pointed out that the presentation of data on *foot and mouth disease* in this country did not mention that the stamping-out measures had been applied for eradication purposes in the two outbreaks detected.
242. The Delegate of **Denmark** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. Regarding *highly pathogenic avian influenza* (HPAI) virus subtype H5N1, the Delegate stated that a total of 45 cases in wild birds had been confirmed in Denmark to date, and that the first outbreak of HPAI virus subtype H5N1 had been detected on 18 May 2006 in a backyard poultry flock. Stamping-out measures had been applied, as well as all the other control and regionalisation measures stipulated in European Union legislation.
243. The Delegate of **Zimbabwe** pointed out that the outbreaks of *avian influenza* subtype H5N2 that Zimbabwe had reported in ostriches were detected using serology and that there had been no clinical signs and no virus had been isolated.
244. Dr Ben Jebara explained that his presentation was confined to highlighting the most important epidemiological events during the period under consideration, and that detailed information on diseases and their world distribution would be published in the 2005 edition of *World Animal Health*, based on the information sent by the Member Countries.
245. The Delegate of **Cuba** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation and said that Cuba had adopted all the emergency measures required to control *classical swine fever* and that the *rabbit haemorrhagic disease* situation was under control, with no new cases since August 2005.
246. Referring to the outbreaks of *rabbit haemorrhagic disease* which had occurred in July 2005, the Delegate of **Uruguay** reported that Uruguay had applied stamping-out measures in the outbreaks, as well as vaccination of the susceptible population and control of animal movements. The situation is now under control, with no new cases since August 2005.

247. The Delegate of **South Africa** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for providing such full information and made a few comments to clarify South Africa's *classical swine fever* status. The disease is under control and remains confined to a region in the Eastern Cape Province. It should be noted that the wild pig population in the affected region consists of warthogs and bushpigs – the susceptibility of which to classical swine fever is not known – rather than European wild boar. In addition, challenge studies and epidemiological surveillance are being undertaken by South Africa to determine the susceptibility of the indigenous African wild pig population in the region.
248. The Delegate of **Malaysia** notified the recurrence of *HPAI* caused by virus subtype H5N1 in three villages in February and March 2006, but stated that the disease is under control.
249. The Delegate of **Egypt** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation and pointed out that *HPAI* now persists in only three governorates. He added that two and a half million doses of bivalent vaccine have been used to control *foot and mouth disease*.

Dr Ben Jebara underlined the quality of this type of information and invited Delegates to send regular follow-up reports, given the importance of such information for the international community.

250. The Delegate of **Nigeria** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. He explained that the time lapse between the start of the outbreak and official notification of *HPAI* to the OIE had been caused by a delay in transporting the samples submitted for confirmation.
251. Dr Ben Jebara stressed the importance of stating the start date of outbreaks in the forms for notifying diseases to the OIE.
252. The Delegate of **Lesotho** agreed with Dr Ben Jebara that it is very important to receive timely information on a country's epidemiological incidents, as this allows neighbouring countries to coordinate their surveillance activities.
253. The President of the International Committee said that it was the Member Countries' duty to complete and send disease information, and he asked the Delegates to do so using the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). He went on to congratulate Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation and the staff of the Central Bureau for their efforts and the quality of their work on behalf of the international community.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006

254. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. I concerning the adoption by the Committee of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. I at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

255. Dr Marc Artois presented the work that had been carried out by the Working Group at its meeting held from 20 to 23 February 2006 under the chairmanship of Dr Roy Bengis (Doc. 74 SG/13/GT). The second day of the meeting was devoted to a special session on avian influenza and the role of wild birds. The report contains a separate section on questions relating to avian influenza and the special session.

256. Sixty-five of the 167 Member Countries sent the OIE an annual report on wildlife diseases in 2005 within the allotted time limit, but in 34 (52%) of these countries no particular wildlife diseases were reported. Only 20 countries reported at least ten diseases, pathological signs or negative test results. A total of 864 cases of disease or pathological signs were reported. The two most frequently cited diseases were rabies and avian influenza. Wild boar, roe deer, brown hare and European red fox were the species most frequently cited, reflecting a bias in the results as the majority of detailed results were from Europe. Although the world-wide distribution of reports has never been uniform, the quality and coverage of reporting from several regions was excellent. There is, however, still a need to improve reporting from some regions, including South America, Asia, the Middle East and the western parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. This suggests that the Chief Veterinary Officers of some Member Countries may not be appointing wildlife disease contact persons and that the reporting of wildlife diseases to the OIE Working Group has not been afforded sufficient priority to be effective. The other main points discussed elicited the following comments.
257. There were few significant changes in the past year compared with the situation described in previous years. Concern was nevertheless expressed that, following the reintroduction of classical swine fever in South Africa, eradication of the disease in communal free-ranging pigs in Eastern Cape Province was proving difficult due to the presence of feral pigs and indigenous bushpigs (*Potamochoerus larvatus*) in the area. Furthermore, brucellosis in various forms, anthrax, bovine tuberculosis and rabies were still endemic in wildlife in many parts of the world.
258. The main events that occurred in 2005 included the following:
- **Chronic wasting disease** in North America. The known range of chronic wasting disease in wild deer in Canada expanded considerably in 2005. The range was extended westward into the province of Alberta and eastward into the eastern half of the province of Saskatchewan. These range expansions of the disease affected both mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and white-tailed deer (*O. virginianus*).
 - **West Nile fever.** In the summer of 2005, the West Nile fever virus was active across much of central Canada (from Quebec to Alberta) and in the United States of America, in wild birds. West Nile fever virus was responsible for an epizootic that resulted in the death of more than 4,600 American white pelicans (*Pelicanus erythrorhynchos*) in six upper Midwestern and western States in the United States of America.
259. The 'unlisted' wildlife diseases to be reported by Member Countries in response to the questionnaire now include diseases that threaten the survival of endangered animal populations:
- **Chytridiomycosis.** In Great Britain, this fungal pathogen was found for the first time in free-living amphibians in a population of introduced North American bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*). It did not appear to be causing disease in these animals.
 - A syndrome referred to as **Devil facial tumour disease** is currently affecting Tasmanian devils (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) in Tasmania, Australia. The disease has been recorded in over 65% of the territory of the State and is almost certainly present in a larger area. The population of Tasmanian devils is estimated to have fallen by more than 50% compared to ten years ago. It appears that the tumour is passed directly from animal to animal by implantation of the cell line during fighting and biting.

260. **Emerging and re-emerging wildlife-related zoonoses of public health concern.**

Dr M. Woodford presented a report of the meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Zoonoses, which took place from 29 to 31 March 2005, at which he represented the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. There are significant areas of interest overlap between the two Groups, as shown in the wildlife-related emerging diseases included in the aforementioned report:

- Ebola haemorrhagic fever in the Republic of Congo
- Marburg virus infection in Angola
- sylvatic plague in Democratic Republic of Congo
- Lassa fever in Sierra Leone
- avian influenza in South-East Asia
- West Nile virus infection in Canada and the United States of America
- Kyasanur forest disease in India
- tularemia in Canada
- trichinellosis in Russia and Canada

as well as bovine tuberculosis and rabies in wild animals (though in many of the cases cited, wildlife was not directly responsible for human contamination).

Cooperation with this *ad hoc* Group is therefore strongly encouraged as it is in the interests of both Groups to benefit from each other's strengths.

261. **Avian influenza**

Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Croatia, Hong Kong, Mongolia, New Caledonia, South Africa and the countries of the European Union provided surveillance data or reported observations of outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds in 2005. The increasing frequency of deaths observed in wild birds, particularly in spring 2005 in China and Mongolia, and in February 2006 in Europe, is a new phenomenon that appears to be characteristic of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus subtype H5N1, which has considerably increased its range during the past year.

The Working Group also expressed concern regarding inconsistencies in the identification of wild birds in which HPAI had been recorded and strongly encouraged proper identification, including scientific names, for affected species, failing which the surveillance data could not be interpreted.

A special session on avian influenza, with an invited group of experts, was therefore held on 21 February during the meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

HPAI virus subtype H5N1, which appeared in Asia in 2003, has been responsible for a vast epizootic in domestic poultry. In 2005-2006, it spread to Central Asia, Europe and parts of Africa, causing huge losses in poultry farms.

This H5N1 strain has also affected wildlife. It has caused a fatal disease in a range of aquatic bird species in China, South-East Asia, Mongolia and Europe. It has also killed tigers in a zoo and cats. It is not yet known whether the spread of this highly pathogenic virus across Asia to Europe and Africa has occurred primarily through human agency (movement of poultry or infected materials), the movement of wild birds or a combination of both. It is also not known which wild species may be capable of carrying the virus over large or small distances.

The presence of poultry and wild birds infected with the same highly pathogenic H5N1 strain in the same geographical locality is evidence that there can be transmission between these groups. Thus, the presence of infection in either group represents a risk of disease in the other. That risk will depend on the opportunities that may exist for interaction between infected wild birds and poultry, which includes both direct contact and a range of indirect means, such as contamination of environments or fomites, by which virus transmission might occur. Epidemiological evidence suggests that the circulation of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain could be at least partly due to the movement of wild birds. A precise knowledge of wild bird movements has therefore become a key concern in assessing the risk to poultry of this highly pathogenic strain.

On the occasion of this meeting, the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases recommended that (summary):

- The control of HPAI should be focused primarily on poultry populations and their husbandry.
- To improve management of influenza A in poultry, risk factors related to the epidemiological role of wild birds should be identified through both field and experimental studies.
- Rapid international sharing of surveillance, virus identification and genetic sequence data is strongly encouraged.
- The OIE Biological Standards Commission should review and establish definitive standards for test methods to be used to detect and identify influenza A viruses in wild birds that can be applied under a range of circumstances and field conditions.
- The OIE should establish procedures to ensure that all reporting and records of avian influenza and other diseases in wildlife include the correct taxonomic designation (including the Latin name) of the affected species.
- International organisations, such as the OIE, WHO, FAO, and IUCN³³ should urgently request CITES³⁴ and IATA³⁵ to allow dispensation for the international movement of samples from CITES-listed and other species for diagnostic purposes in accordance with the International Convention on Biodiversity and the International Health Regulations of the WHO.
- The OIE should establish guidelines for the safe and effective use of vaccination against influenza A viruses in zoos and other captive collections of wildlife species. Member Countries are encouraged to establish guidelines for such use of vaccines under their particular conditions.

262. In 2005, the Working Group had discussed what further actions would be the most useful for Chief Veterinary Officers and the International Committee regarding national preparedness plans. It had been decided that the Working Group would prepare a briefing document on **national preparedness to respond to important disease outbreaks that may involve wild animals**. This year, the Group examined a document prepared by Dr Chris Bunn and recommended that it be modified as indicated in the detailed report of the meeting. It was also decided that the issue of preparedness should be approached on two levels: initially by means of a publication for the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, followed by a chapter to be written and incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code* as a set of guidelines.

³³ IUCN: The World Conservation Union

³⁴ CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

³⁵ IATA: International Air Transport Association

263. In 2005, it had also been decided that the Group would study the **surveillance of diseases specifically in wild animal populations**, for incorporation into the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. During the same year, the *Terrestrial Code* underwent substantial revision and the document prepared by the Group in response to the aforementioned decision was no longer compatible with the new edition. The content remained fully relevant, however, and was presented as Appendix V in the detailed report of the Group. In 2006, the Group will revise this document to be compatible with the new layout and format of the *Terrestrial Code*.
264. **Zoning and compartmentalisation:** the Group devoted a work session to this topic and recognised that it was impossible to apply compartmentalisation for highly infectious diseases when there is a diffuse interface between livestock or poultry and infected wildlife. However, a compartment of domestic animals may remain disease free when an enterprise is managed in such a way as to preclude any contact between wild animals and domestic animals. This situation must be based on a thorough knowledge of the epidemiology of the disease in wild animals. As examples, the Working Group confirmed its previous comments regarding the maintenance or establishment of the status of disease-free establishment when Newcastle disease virus is present in wild birds or classical swine fever is present in wild suidae.
265. For a number of years, the Working Group has been concerned that diagnostic tests validated for use on samples from particular species of domestic animals are all too often used on samples from wild animal species for which the tests have not been validated. It has therefore been examining the main diagnostic tests and kits currently available to determine, with the help of OIE Reference Laboratories, whether such tests could be validated for wildlife species. In 2005, the diagnostic tests for avian botulism, avian influenza, West Nile virus and Nipah and Hendra virus were evaluated. The recommendations are contained in a table in the report of the meeting of the Group.
266. Other important items tackled at the 15th meeting of the Working Group included the following:
- The Working Group noted that, from the available data, the massive die-off of vultures in South-East Asia was almost certainly related to their exposure to the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) diclofenac, present in discarded livestock carcasses of animals that had been treated with this drug prior to death. The OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases supports international wildlife conservation organisations in their urging of governments in the countries concerned to ban the use of diclofenac as a veterinary analgesic and encourage the use of alternative products.
267. Subjects to be discussed at the meeting of the Working Group in 2007:
- Linking databases of animal health, human health and environmental health (conservation) in order to improve communication and utilisation of these resources for health management
 - Wildlife addendum for the proposed *Terrestrial Code* chapter on surveillance
 - Surveillance of avian influenza
 - Global review of the impact of paratuberculosis on wildlife
 - Taxonomic tools for improving the accuracy of disease reporting in wildlife, and to avoid confusing of wildlife species involved in reported disease events
 - Future composition of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases (gender, race and regional representation).

268. The President thanked Dr Artois for his excellent presentation and requested him to convey the thanks of the Committee to the other members of the Working Group.
269. The Delegate of Morocco thanked Prof. Artois for the excellence and quality of his presentation and raised two points on the subject of avian influenza (AI). The first point concerned diagnosing the presence of the AI virus in wildlife, and the second concerned the hypothesis presented by Prof. Artois on the introduction of AI to Africa. Prof. Artois stated that the highly pathogenic H5N1 Asia strain was often excreted by the respiratory route and the ideal solution would be to test for the presence of the virus in cloacal and tracheal swabs to determine whether a bird was shedding the virus. However, there had been cases of birds with clinical signs in which the virus could not be detected. It was essential to use the appropriate diagnostic tests in order to detect cases of infection. Regarding the second part of the question, Prof. Artois stated that it did not fall within his competence but he would nevertheless attempt to provide an answer: in his view, it was far from certain that wild birds had introduced avian influenza to Africa. Experts were currently drafting their reports but the results were not yet available.
270. The Delegate of Swaziland also thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation and noted that during the past year it had been observed that dogs and then cats could become infected. He wondered if it was known whether the virus had the potential to be transmitted from these carnivores to other species. Prof. Artois stated that it was a very difficult question and there was still no definitive answer. Carnivores had indeed been found to be susceptible and could excrete the virus but, for the time being, there was no evidence of any lasting adaptation of the virus to mammals. The example of Germany showed that cats could become infected without causing a subsequent outbreak. It should therefore be considered a common source infection, birds thus remaining the reservoir that contaminate other species.
271. The Delegate of Senegal thanked the speaker for a very interesting presentation and also asked a question about the introduction of the virus into Africa. It would appear that Cameroon had been contaminated by wild birds and not by trade in poultry. He mentioned a study currently being carried out by international experts that should provide an answer. Prof. Artois repeated that the question was indeed very difficult and that any response at present would be premature and the results of the studies in progress should be awaited. Regarding the hypothesis that wild birds introduced AI into Africa, he recalled that previous observations of other influenza strains had shown that poultry farms had indeed been responsible for outbreaks in wildlife. The possibility that the same scenario had occurred in Africa and that it was domestic poultry that subsequently contaminated wild birds could not be ruled out. The crucial question was therefore whether the virus could persist in wild bird populations. The situation in Europe had not provided an answer, except perhaps in Germany and Northern Europe where the virus had been seen to spread within wild bird populations. Nevertheless, the outbreak that occurred in Ain department, France, showed that the environment had been contaminated but there had been no evidence of spread by direct contact between wild birds.
272. The Delegate of the United Kingdom also thanked Prof. Artois and underlined the importance of the presentation regarding the hypothesis on the spread of the AI virus. She asked what the ornithologists' views were on this question. She emphasised the need to strengthen relations with organisations such as CITES. Prof. Artois confirmed the need to include experts from different fields in studies on AI, but mentioned the difficulties encountered in the field due in part to the intervention of the health officers as soon as a case of AI was confirmed. These conditions made it difficult for the "biologists" to recover epidemiological information. There was therefore a lack of studies on the susceptibility of the various species of birds to AI. For example, mallard were known to be the one of the principal reservoirs of the virus, but there was no precise information on the spread of the H5N1 virus within this species in Europe. There was therefore an urgent need to bring together biologists, epidemiologists and the Veterinary Services to find out if, and how, the virus could persist in this species.

273. Dr Vallat provided information on IATA, which regulates the transport by air of biological samples, and CITES, which works on endangered species. He stated that the OIE maintained contacts with these two organisations and was regularly invited to their meetings. The OIE would therefore endeavour to propose solutions to problems relating to the transport of biological samples, in particular within the context of AI. He also invited the Delegates to support these efforts and to contact the ministry of transport and the ministry of the environment in their countries to explain these problems and to support the OIE position.
274. On the subject of Africa, he added that, despite considerable research (several thousand samples), the presence of the virus had not been detected in wetland areas. Non-official information on two positive cases, unconfirmed by the Reference Laboratories, needed to be studied in more detail. At least one of the cases involved a kite, which could have become infected by eating domestic birds that had died of AI.
275. Prof. Caporale pointed out that the United Kingdom had indeed raised a crucial point that had already been identified by the Scientific Commission, and he noted that the Veterinary Services often found it difficult to conduct surveillance in wildlife. He recalled that the Scientific Commission had sought approval for the setting up of an *ad hoc* Group on wildlife surveillance, which should be convened as soon as possible. It would be up to the newly elected Scientific Commission to propose whether the modifications to be made to the *Terrestrial Code* should take the form of a global appendix on surveillance of wildlife diseases or consist of an appendix to each of the relevant disease chapters.
276. A member of the Delegation of Poland emphasised the need for cooperation between countries and provided details of the intermediate results of a study on wild swans. In a total of about 100 clinically healthy swans tested, around 30 viral strains had been isolated and some birds apparently had antibodies. The data of the study would be published in the near future. Prof. Artois thanked the speaker and told him that he was eager to learn the results.
277. A member of the Delegation of Libya queried the relevance of focusing solely on the role of wild birds in the transmission of AI and asked about other possible carriers, in particular humans, and asked for clarification of the statement in the presentation that not all AI strains were pathogenic for wild birds. Prof. Artois agreed that all the hypotheses on AI transmission should be examined. He also explained that interaction between the virus and the host was highly dependent on the species. The lack of virulence in some species and the extreme pathogenicity in others illustrated the wide range of interactions. For instance, mortality was particularly high in chickens and turkeys infected with HPAI. The same strain in mallard (or Peking ducks, the domestic form of this species) did not usually produce clinical signs. Pathogenic strains that had been observed in this species in Asia in 2004 were no longer isolated in 2005. It would appear that these ducks had “filtered” these strains and only strains that were of low virulence “for ducks” persisted. In this species, virus multiplication occurred in the epithelium of the intestine without the appearance of clinical signs. There were hundreds of species between these two extremes, but the behaviour of the different strains was not precisely known. Swans provided a good illustration: although thousands of swans had probably been exposed to the AI virus, only some of them had died. He concluded by saying that scientists faced an enormous task in trying to improve their understanding of the behaviour of the various strains and the interaction between virus and host.
278. The representative of Denmark thanked Prof. Artois and added a remark to the comment by the United Kingdom on collaboration between veterinarians and ornithologists. Since 2003, Denmark had been conducting a study to identify AI strains in bird faeces that had been collected and traced. According to the results, only low pathogenic strains had been isolated. Following the outbreak in March/April, an H5N1 strain was isolated in the faeces tested, thus apparently confirming virus excretion from the intestine. He also mentioned that the epidemiological situation in Europe, with “micro-epidemics”, was most likely different from that in other continents and, based on his own observation, contamination

between different species of wild birds had probably taken place. Prof. Artois thanked Denmark for this information, and emphasised that when prevalence was very low, virus detection became very difficult. Environmental surveillance and testing of bird faeces probably increased the likelihood of detecting the virus, but had the disadvantage of making it difficult to identify precisely the species of bird involved.

279. Dr Vallat replied to the comments by the United Kingdom and Denmark and stated that collaboration between the Veterinary Services and ornithological societies had already been tried at the OIE during a special session organised within the framework of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. Partnerships of this kind were indispensable and should be strengthened in the future. He invited the Delegates to bear in mind that hunters could also provide additional observations and could become important sentinels. Some organisations representing hunters would like to collaborate with the OIE.
280. Dr Vallat issued a reminder that a conference organised by the OIE and the FAO on the role of migratory birds in the transmission of AI would be taking place at the end of May in Rome, Italy.
281. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated and thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation. He supported the proposal to develop guidelines on surveillance of wildlife, as well as on biosecurity and compartmentalisation, in view of the growing importance of these topics. In this respect, he specifically thanked Prof. Artois for having dealt appropriately with the question of classical swine fever.
282. A member of the Delegation of Italy thanked Prof. Artois and added that the case of an infected swan in Italy, which had probably arrived from the Balkans as the result of an atypical migratory phenomenon, had not caused any other outbreaks, thus supporting Prof. Artois' hypothesis. He also mentioned the value of using sentinel animals, a question that had already been raised at the European level. Prof. Artois agreed that sentinel animals were useful in principle but emphasised the major practical difficulty as, in the event of clinical signs, there would be serious regulatory consequences for Member Countries.
283. The President thanked Prof. Artois for his excellent presentation, which had aroused great interest among the Delegates, and he encouraged the Working Group to pursue its task with the same degree of dynamism. In reply to the proposal by Prof. Artois to extend the Working Group to include experts from regions not widely represented, he invited all the Member Countries to play an active part in the work of the Group.
284. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

285. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE headquarters from 19 to 30 September 2005. The Commission had met again from 6 to 10 March 2006 to examine comments made by Member Countries on the report of its September meeting and identify issues which could be dealt with during the General Session. The remaining items and comments would be discussed at the next meeting of the Commission in September, together with new comments on the report of the March meeting.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members on the Commission (Drs W.-A. Valder and S.K. Hargreaves, and Profs S.C. MacDiarmid, A. Panin and A.M. Hassan) for their enthusiasm and expertise. He also thanked Dr Wilson and his staff at the OIE headquarters for their hard work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

Dr Thiermann recalled the significant changes to the timetable for the two meetings of the Code Commission in that the OIE had reverted to a two-year cycle for the preparation and adoption of standards, except in the case of international crises. He hoped that the changed timetable would further improve coordination in standards work between the Code Commission and the other Commissions.

Dr Thiermann recalled the commitments made to Member Countries at the 73rd General Session regarding progress on some important texts which had been adopted on the understanding that outstanding Member Countries' comments would be addressed. This included surveillance for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) (which would allow official recognition of the BSE status under the terms of the new chapter), bluetongue surveillance, the newly adopted standards on animal welfare, the 'under study' parts of the avian influenza chapter, and compartmentalisation. He also noted the recommendations arising from OIE Regional Commission meetings and other OIE meetings, including suggestions for improving the OIE *Terrestrial Code* chapters on Veterinary Services. Progress on these priorities would be discussed further in this report. In general, he believed that it had been another productive year, with 26 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption and several others in preparation. He referred Delegates to the reports of the meetings of the Code Commission in September (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS1 A) and March (Doc. 74 SG/12/CS1 B) for additional details.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide electronically a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' Web site, as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. He also noted the policy of the OIE of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, on the OIE public Web site, as this provided an opportunity for other organisations and the general public to be aware of the important work being done in the OIE on international standards, and for them to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann noted that, as a result of this increased effort in transparency by the OIE, a significant number of comments were received directly from NGOs and trade organisations. These comments were examined by the Code Commission. At the same time, the OIE responded to these interested stakeholders reminding them in the future to send a copy of these comments to their respective Delegates as comments from Delegates receive priority attention.

Dr Thiermann strongly encouraged more Member Countries to participate in the development of OIE international standards by sending comments in sufficient time for them to be considered by the Commission. He suggested that submission of detailed comments should be made prior to the Commission's September meeting (by mid-August each year), and further comments on the Commission's September meeting report should be made prior to the Commission's March meeting (by mid-February), not just before or during the General Session. He reminded Members that, as a result of these changes, the Code Commission would not examine any submission received after the Commission's March meeting. Any additional comments from Member Countries would have to be made during the discussion and adoption process at the General Session.

286. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the OIE International Committee that any insertion in or amendment to the *Terrestrial Code* would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Committee during the course of the week.

287. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the OIE International Committee for adoption:

288. **Chapter 1.1.1. General definitions**

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments on various animal welfare definitions originally proposed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare, and made appropriate changes.

Considering a comment raised by a Member Country during the 73rd General Session, the Code Commission had revised the definition of 'Quarantine station' to accommodate disease-specific conditions.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann advised that the definitions proposed for adoption referred mainly to the animal welfare guidelines proposed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare, and the definition of quarantine station.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 1.1.1.

Regarding the definition of "animal handler", the Delegate of Australia commented that, being practical and realistic, it is impossible for countries to certify every animal handler. A solution may be to refer to animal handler within an "approved system".

The Delegate of Uruguay indicated some concerns regarding the definition of "animal handler" especially in the last sentence of this definition. He suggested that it be put under study, due to problems over the application of this definition by all Member Countries.

The Delegate of Argentina supported the Delegate of Uruguay as the last sentence could be a problem in its application. He suggested referring to training rather than certification.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) Member States, supported the comment from Australia on "animal handler", and sought assurance that comments already sent by the European Union would be addressed by the Working Group after the General Session.

Dr Thiermann confirmed this and admitted the problem of accrediting all persons involved in handling animals, however, at the same time, a reference to competence was required, for example for personnel involved in transport of animals over long distances. Dr Thiermann agreed to put the last sentence of the definition of "animal handler" "under study", to be examined by the Working Group during its next meeting, along with all other comments received.

The Delegate of the United States of America proposed to delete the last sentence rather than put it under study.

This chapter was adopted by the International Committee with the above modification.

289. **Chapter 1.3.3. Evaluation of Veterinary Services**
Chapter 1.3.4. Guidelines for evaluation of Veterinary Services

The Code Commission revised Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. on the evaluation of Veterinary Services, based on the draft received from the Chair of the *ad hoc* Group. This revision included recommendations on the evaluation of the national Veterinary Statutory Body and on a procedure whereby a Member Country can, if it so wishes, request the OIE to organise an evaluation of its Veterinary Services.

The Code Commission also reviewed the PVS tool ('Performance, Vision, Strategy') developed by the OIE and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services. The tool was designed to indicate the areas of strength and weakness of a Veterinary Service (with a view to the allocation of resources for improvements) rather than to pass or fail it. The Code Commission was of the opinion that this tool could be used as a guide for self evaluation by a Member Country of its Veterinary Services and for evaluation by the OIE of a Member Country's Veterinary Services on a voluntary basis, and proposed to include references to this tool in Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.

Addressing Member Countries concern at the apparent need to use the PVS tool to conduct evaluations, the Code Commission clarified that the PVS tool could be used in self-evaluations, bilateral evaluations and in third party evaluation. The Code Commission also clarified the role of OIE experts in facilitating these evaluations.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. Dr Thiermann noted that the most significant changes were to Article 1.3.3.5.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the proposed chapters, but wanted to make some comments on both chapters. What was the status of the PVS tool if it is not to be included in the *Terrestrial Code*? When experts gave their opinion after an evaluation using the new PVS tool, it should be clarified whether such a conclusion will be binding on Member Countries. Dr Thiermann answered that the tool is referenced in the *Terrestrial Code*, but is not part of the *Terrestrial Code*. The PVS tool is not mandatory; it serves to provide guidance to Member Countries. Such an evaluation should not be aimed at passing or failing a country, but to emphasise the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluated Veterinary Services. It is a flexible tool that will be regularly updated. Dr Thiermann noted that, three weeks previously, a group of experts had studied how the PVS tool could be better harmonised with the *Terrestrial Code*; however, the only international standard on evaluation of Veterinary Services is the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Senegal expressed his support for the proposed text with regard to assessing Veterinary Services using the PVS tool. He regretted, however, that Delegates had not yet had an opportunity to become acquainted with the PVS tool because it had not been presented to them at an earlier time. Dr Thiermann replied that the PVS tool had been included in the September report of the Code Commission and can be consulted at any time on the OIE Web site.

The Delegate of Saudi Arabia asked for more information on Article 1.3.3.5. Dr Thiermann explained that Article 1.3.3.5. was new, and addressed the use of the PVS tool by Veterinary Services for evaluation by a third party or for self-evaluation. The Director General clarified the role of the OIE in this respect. Member Countries can ask the OIE for an evaluation of their Veterinary Services and, if they agree, it can be published by the OIE. This evaluation checks, on a voluntary basis, the conformity of a Member Country's Veterinary Services with the *Terrestrial Code* standards of quality. The PVS tool will simplify and harmonise the work of the experts. The OIE is in the process of accrediting experts: nineteen experts have already been accredited and the list of accredited experts will be published.

The Delegate of New Zealand supported the proposed chapter, but he suggested that the Code Commission consider rationalising the guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* and the status of the PVS tool to minimise confusion. Dr Thiermann replied that it would be better not to include a detailed description of the PVS tool in the *Terrestrial Code*, because otherwise it would have to undergo the formal adoption procedure after every update.

The President observed that the veterinary community should speak the same language and that it would be advisable to proceed with caution. Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission would examine the comments made by the Delegates on harmonising the PVS tool with the *Terrestrial Code* chapters.

Both chapters were adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

290. **Chapter 1.3.5. Zoning and compartmentalisation**

Dr Thiermann recalled that substantially revised text had been adopted at the 73rd General Session and noted that relatively minor modifications were proposed this year, such as reorganisation of paragraphs in the 'Introduction' and 'General considerations' articles to address the issues more logically. The Code Commission also clarified the commitment of the Veterinary Administration by modifying the last paragraph of Article 1.3.5.2.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission and the International Trade Department were still of the opinion that the concept of compartmentalisation, although clearly defined in the *Terrestrial Code*, was still not fully understood by many countries. In an effort to assist in the implementation of this important concept, the International Trade Department is developing a practical guide to the application of compartmentalisation, using avian influenza in poultry as an example. This guide will be published by the OIE.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the text of this chapter was revised last year taking into account comments from Member Countries. He also believed that the concept of compartmentalisation was still not fully understood by Member Countries and a concept paper prepared by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) will be analysed during the next meeting of the Code Commission.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 1.3.5.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the adoption of this chapter but commented that the interpretation of the concepts of zoning/compartmentalisation, especially regarding infected zones, needed clarification. He also noted that a similar discussion was taking place in the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Committee and emphasised the importance of the work of the two organisations being harmonized. He asked for a time-frame for the process of OIE recognition of zones and compartments, and asked if the OIE could increase the number of animal diseases for which free status is recognised officially by the OIE, including diseases of wildlife.

The Delegate of Botswana agreed with the European Union on this issue. He stated that zoning could be applicable to free zones or infected zones as long as they were isolated from the rest of the territory. He provided an example of a large country that could maintain exports even if there is a small infected zone within its territory.

Dr Thiermann indicated that zoning/compartmentalisation could be applicable to free or infected zones or compartments and its objective is to separate subpopulations with different status based on geographical criteria or biocontainment. Dr Thiermann thanked Delegates for their comments and indicated that the Code Commission will address the need for clarification.

The Delegate of Mali expressed reservations over the application of compartmentalisation to avian influenza. He considered that poor application of compartmentalisation to avian influenza would increase the risk of the disease being introduced into countries importing poultry and poultry products.

Dr Thiermann advised that the OIE, through Dr Wilson, was participating in the work of the SPS Committee on this issue. However some requests from the SPS Committee to the OIE, for example administrative time-frames, are outside the mandate of the OIE given by its Member Countries. The recognition of a free zone or compartment may be a matter of long discussion and it depends on many factors, including the credibility of information provided and the quality of the Veterinary Services.

Dr Vallat indicated that the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan includes the possibility of extending the list of diseases notifiable to the OIE. He added that it was up to the International Committee to propose specific diseases for inclusion, taking into account the OIE's workload and its management capabilities, which will be placed under a considerable strain by BSE status recognition procedures, especially in view of the fact that the EU is to abandon the Geographical BSE Risk (GBR) procedure and align itself with the lists published by the OIE.

He indicated that if the BSE chapter is adopted, the number of requests for official recognition from Member Countries will increase significantly.

Dr Vallat stated that the concept of an infected zone within a free country is not incompatible with the *Terrestrial Code*. He added that the application of zoning and compartmentalisation depends on each of the diseases in question.

Dr Vallat expressed his view that it would be difficult to apply the concept of compartmentalisation to FMD because of the difficulty of isolating an animal population in an infected environment. To prevent any misunderstanding between the recommendations adopted in the SPS Committee on regionalisation for plant and animal health and the position of Delegates of OIE Member Countries, the Director General indicated that he will send a letter to all the Governments of Member Countries requesting them to put their Ministry of Foreign Affairs in contact with their Delegate to the OIE, so as to improve communication between the Veterinary Services and the national representatives on the SPS Committee to improve harmonisation of country positions.

Dr Thiermann indicated that compartmentalisation needed collaboration between the Veterinary Services and the private sector, and should be implemented without waiting for disease outbreaks.

The President supported the proposal from Dr Vallat to improve communications between Ministries and he asked the representative of the WTO for comments. The representative of the WTO indicated that the SPS Committee is working on regionalisation but no consensus has been reached among Member Countries. The representative of the WTO noted the importance of effective coordination between OIE Delegates and the national representatives on the SPS Committee to avoid unnecessary duplication and conflict.

This chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

291. **Chapter 2.1.1. Criteria for listing diseases**

Dr Thiermann stated that the Code Commission had reviewed the report of an *ad hoc* Group on Diseases/Pathogenic Agent Notification, which had considered Member Country submissions on the criteria and the list of diseases.

The recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group regarding the reference to avian influenza in the list of diseases was modified to address the importance of Member Countries notifying findings in wild birds.

The Code Commission will continue to work with the Animal Health Information Department to develop recommendations that will improve the transparency of reporting, including the presence of pathogens in wildlife, without unnecessarily adversely affecting international trade conditions.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.1.1.

Dr Thiermann clarified that diseases are listed for reporting purposes. However, there may be chapters in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* for diseases that are not listed, as is currently the case for certain *Terrestrial Manual* chapters.

The Delegate of South Africa acknowledged the good quality of the listing criteria given in Chapter 2.1.1. He requested some clarification on the rationale for porcine cysticercosis being included in the list whereas bovine cysticercosis was not. Dr Thiermann recalled that all the OIE-listed diseases were tested against the agreed listing criteria. Dr Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, explained that listing criteria considered the zoonotic potential and that the presence of porcine cysticercosis on the list was related to this. For further details he referred Delegates to the report of the *ad hoc* Group that made this assessment. He also requested the Delegates to submit to the OIE any new scientific information; this information would then be submitted to the *ad hoc* Group for a re-evaluation of the disease against the listing criteria.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

292. Chapter 2.2.10. Foot and mouth disease

Dr Thiermann stated that the Code Commission had examined Member Country comments and made appropriate modifications such as the conditions for "Recovery of free status" in Article 2.2.10.7. to clarify that it also applies to a country, not only to a zone.

The Code Commission had received the conclusion of the Scientific Commission on Member Country comments received during 2005, and had modified Article 2.2.10.9. accordingly.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann summarised the changes proposed to the chapter.

The President opened the discussion on Chapter 2.2.10.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the changes proposed in this chapter but expressed continuing concern on Article 2.2.10.20. regarding bone-in meat from a free country with vaccination. The risk could be too high as indicated by recent outbreaks.

The Delegate of South Africa raised the same concern as the European Union. According to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology and the Scientific Commission, there are concerns about the stability of the FMD situation in South America. He requested that the Scientific Commission address the risk pertaining to the status of countries and zones declared free from FMD where vaccination is practised as well as the risks pertaining to the trade of bone-in meat from such countries or zones.

The Delegate of Philippines requested reasons for the deletion of compartmentalisation from the surveillance appendix. Dr Thiermann explained that this had been done as the FMD chapter did not refer to compartments because of the epidemiological characteristics of this disease. The issue remains under discussion.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the comments from the European Union and South Africa would be forwarded to the Scientific Commission.

The Delegate of Singapore expressed his concern at Article 2.2.10.8. (paragraph 5) on the slaughter of animals from infected zones in slaughterhouses located in free areas.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the quality of the Veterinary Services was the defining factor in giving credibility to allow countries that do not have an abattoir in their infected zones to slaughter healthy animals in non-infected zones.

Chapter 2.2.10. was adopted unchanged.

293. Appendix 3.8.7. Surveillance for foot and mouth disease

The Code Commission noted that the revised Appendix 3.8.7. prepared by the Scientific Commission did not include the concept of compartmentalisation. As a result, the Code Commission did not incorporate the concept into the chapter as requested by some Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Appendix 3.8.7.

Appendix 3.8.7. was adopted unchanged.

294. Chapter 2.2.13. Bluetongue

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed Member Country comments. The modifications included the Southern latitude boundary in Articles 2.2.13.1. and 2.2.13.2., and the distance from the infection front in which surveillance was required in Article 2.2.13.1. to give more flexibility, with a linkage to the proposed surveillance Appendix on bluetongue.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.2.13.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, expressed his wish that the 60-day period be re-evaluated when new information on inactivated vaccines become available. With regard to the surveillance chapter, the Delegate pointed out that sentinel animals should be identified individually; Dr Thiermann acknowledged such a need.

The Delegate of South Africa asked that guidelines on other ruminants be addressed by the Scientific Commission, because of the trade in wild ruminants. He also asked that bluetongue free countries and bluetongue free compartments be formally defined in this chapter.

Dr Thiermann replied that the Code Commission was intending to proceed with guidelines on other ruminants.

Furthermore, given their similarities, a new chapter on African horse sickness will be prepared in the light of the chapter on bluetongue.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

295. **Chapter 2.3.13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

Dr Thiermann recalled the discussion at the 73rd General Session, where some Member Countries were opposed to inclusion of deboned skeletal muscle meat and blood products in the list of commodities that can be traded safely. However, arguments were largely based on studies using laboratory strains of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) agent in laboratory animals, and many scientific papers have confirmed that different TSEs behave differently in various animal models. With respect to BSE, cattle provide the appropriate model to study the distribution of the agent in that species. A number of studies have been undertaken and none has demonstrated the presence of BSE in deboned skeletal muscle meat or in the blood of experimentally infected cattle not showing clinical signs of BSE.

The Code Commission also took into account information arising from a recent WHO Consultation on Tissue Infectivity Distribution in Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, but noted that, in many cases, this was preliminary information requiring further validation. The meeting also referred to an equivocal result for skeletal muscle meat (semitendinosus muscle) arising from a clinically affected cow. The Code Commission did not believe that any changes in this regard were required to the current text, but it would continue to monitor the progress in the research.

Dr Thiermann noted with thanks the significant work done by two *ad hoc* Groups, the *ad hoc* Group on BSE Surveillance that met in September 2005 and the *ad hoc* Group to review the bovine spongiform encephalopathy chapter in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* that met in January 2006, which was taken into account in the revision proposed by the Code Commission.

The Code Commission agreed with the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on BSE regarding Article 2.3.13.1.

With regard to the release assessment in Article 2.3.13.2., the Code Commission decided to replace the current text with that developed by the experts who had been working on the revision of Appendix 3.8.5. (Guidelines on risk assessment for BSE).

Comments from some Member Countries, which were endorsed by the *ad hoc* Group on BSE Surveillance, were taken into account and references to other TSEs were deleted from the BSE chapter, because there is little evidence that surveillance information on other TSEs is necessary to determine the risks presented by the BSE agent. Any risks presented by other TSEs are addressed by the application of measures such as feed bans.

With regard to required surveillance in relation to BSE status, the Code Commission agreed with the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group on BSE Surveillance: once target points have been reached through Type A surveillance, the country could switch to Type B surveillance, regardless of the prevalence of BSE. The Code Commission considered that, given the long incubation period of BSE, the number of cases, which reflected the situation in the distant past, was not as important as the continuous implementation of mitigation measures. Consequently, the expenditure of resources on testing more samples was considered to be less valuable than verifying that mitigation measures were currently being strictly enforced.

The Code Commission considered that the date of birth of the indigenous case rather than the date of reporting of the case was preferable as the reference date. However, after considering comments and quantitative data from some Member Countries, the Code Commission extended the time period from 8 years to 11 years.

With regard to the reference to the progeny of female cases in Articles 2.3.13.3. and 2.3.13.4., the Code Commission considered the deletion to be appropriate as animals born to female cases were not necessarily exposed to the BSE agent and were not considered to present a higher risk than the general population.

With regard to gelatin in Article 2.3.13.14., the Code Commission decided to include the recommendations from the *ad hoc* Group on BSE.

Dr Thiermann advised that comments from Member Countries, including the risks in 'negligible risk' countries associated with animals born after the full implementation of the measures, and further information on gelatin, would be addressed after the General Session by BSE experts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann recalled that Article 2.3.13.1. was developed to help trade in the listed commodities, but the contents of the entire chapter need to be taken into account when making decisions.

Dr Thiermann explained that, as Article 2.3.13.1. addresses risk "regardless of the BSE status of the country", it reflects the lowest common denominator which is applicable to any country even with undetermined BSE status. Countries with controlled risk status could, for example under Article 2.3.13.10. trade meat under less restrictive conditions, due to the measures such countries have already taken.

The President of the International Committee recalled that BSE has stimulated a great volume of work among scientists and a large amount of time has been spent discussing this chapter for more than a decade. The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.3.13.

The Delegate of Japan recalled that there had been substantial discussion at the 73rd General Session to reach a consensus on the current Chapter on BSE, in particular Article 2.3.13.1., and expressed regret that further modifications were being proposed by the Code Commission. He questioned the scientific basis for deleting the 30-month age limit as well as the deletion from para g) of Article 2.3.13.1. of the term "not suspect or confirmed BSE cases". He also sought scientific information supporting the exclusion of other TSEs in the risk assessment. He supported the change to "birth year" but asked for the background data for the period of 11 years introduced in Article 2.3.13.3. Dr Thiermann responded that the 30-month age limit had been restored in the draft proposed today, and that ante- and post-mortem inspection should exclude any suspect or confirmed case of BSE. He added that the fact that other TSEs had not been taken into account was in accordance with the opinion of the experts because other mitigating measures, such as a feed ban, address these. He indicated that the information regarding the 11-year time period had been supplied to the Code Commission by experts from the *ad hoc* Group and was based on a study due to be published by the European Commission.

The Delegate of Singapore supported the reinstatement of the 30-month age limit but shared Japan's concern, noting that the requirement of "not suspect or confirmed BSE cases" is not the same as, and not replaceable by, reliance on ante- and post-mortem inspection. The Delegate of Saudi Arabia supported Singapore.

The Delegate of Botswana, supported by the Delegate of South Africa, expressed his disappointment at the reinstatement of the 30-month age limit.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of EU Member States, thanked the Code Commission for the progress made in the BSE Chapter and the Appendix on surveillance. He stated that the information regarding the 11-year period would be published soon. He stated that the Community welcomed the OIE's proposal to keep the 30-month age limit for boneless beef and to await the outcome of further research on this issue; he also supported the OIE's intention to further examine the risks in countries of "negligible BSE risk" associated with animals born before the full implementation of the risk mitigating measures. While expressing support for the current proposal, he raised three issues to which the European Union requests the Code Commission give further consideration: 1) expanding the current "ruminant-to-ruminant" feed ban to a "mammalian-to-mammalian" feed ban, 2) providing more detailed requirements for the safe processing of gelatin and collagen, and 3) developing a prompt and transparent classification procedure by May 2007 for the major trading countries. Dr Thiermann noted that comments from the EU had indeed been received.

Dr Thiermann noted that there had been significant input on gelatin from Member Countries as well as from the gelatin manufacturing industry but that more information was needed regarding the inclusion of specified risk material (SRM) in countries with undetermined BSE risk status. He also noted that an *ad hoc* Group has already been constituted to address country classification issues and procedures.

The Delegate of Chile sought clarification about the relevant periods of time referred to in Article 2.3.13.3.

The Delegate of South Africa expressed his support for the proposal on gelatin.

The Delegate of Colombia sought clarification on the relationship between Articles 2.3.13.1.g) and 2.3.13.10., as to whether Article 2.3.13.10. would also be applicable to meat from cattle aged under 30 months. Dr Thiermann reiterated the reason for retaining the age reference in Article 2.3.13.1.g) and clarified that there is no age restriction in Article 2.3.13.10. He indicated that further information is being sought to clarify the cut-off age of 30 months.

The Delegate of Korea, supporting Japan, stated that more information should be supplied before concluding that other TSEs were irrelevant in the risk assessment.

Dr Thiermann reiterated that BSE suspect and confirmed animals should be detected by ante- and post-mortem inspection. Responding to the comments by the Delegates of Colombia and Botswana, he emphasised the need for the age limit to be consistent with the requirement of SRM removal, as Article 2.3.13.1. is applicable to all countries including those of undetermined BSE risk status, and stressed that Article 2.3.13.1. is not the only article concerning meat trade.

Dr Thiermann replied to the EU proposal for a broadening of the feed ban by indicating that the Code Commission considered cross contamination to be an internal control issue. Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission would continue to address the gelatin recommendations.

The Delegate of New Zealand expressed his support for the proposed text and sought information on the progress of drafting a new supporting document as mentioned at the 73rd General Session. Dr Thiermann thanked the experts who had volunteered to assist in such drafting and stated that the draft would be discussed at the next Code Commission meeting and circulated with the report of the Code Commission in October.

The Delegate of Singapore stated that the Codex definition of ante- and post-mortem inspection does not include disease-specific procedures and he proposed to maintain the current text until a new definition for ante- and post-mortem inspection for BSE is developed by the OIE. Dr Thiermann responded that the implications of such text might be the testing of all cattle slaughtered using a BSE screening test, which is not the intention of the current text.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

296. **Appendix 3.8.4. Surveillance for BSE**

Dr Thiermann noted that, as he had indicated at the 73rd General Session, the *ad hoc* Group on Surveillance for BSE met again in September 2005 to further consider 'maintenance surveillance'.

The Code Commission examined the appendix proposed by the experts and endorsed it with minor changes.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Appendix 3.8.4.

The Delegate of Canada expressed thanks for the work done by the experts and the Code Commission, and supported adoption of the text. He sought clarification on the target subpopulation for surveillance elaborated in paragraph 1 of Article 3.8.4.2. and expressed the view that younger animals showing clinical signs are critical for surveillance, as they may have been exposed to a high dose of BSE agent at an early age. Dr Thiermann explained that the exclusion of younger animals from this subpopulation is to urge countries to focus on older animals, but recognized the need for younger animals not to be excluded.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of EU Member States, supported the requirement for testing all clinical suspects in addition to animals of other risk groups.

The Delegate of Japan recalled that Appendix 3.8.4. was adopted at the 2005 General Session without any discussion being permitted: this had forced him to oppose such adoption. He expressed his regret that significant changes to Table 1 had been made just before the General Session without explanation, and stated his hope that this Appendix would be refined as more data accumulated. He then commented on three points: 1) a surveillance programme with a maximum possible prevalence at 1/100,000 could overlook a considerable number of BSE cases without clinical signs, 2) current point values focus too heavily on passive surveillance; Table 2 should be divided into two categories, "routine slaughter" and "other", until more experience is accumulated on a global basis, and 3) it is not clear what would be required after a country accumulated the target points. The Delegate of Taipei China, stressing the importance of maintaining consumer confidence, supported Japan's comment, while the Delegate of Malaysia drew attention to the investment required for such surveillance and the burden on developing countries trying to reach "negligible risk".

Dr Thiermann expressed his agreement on the need to improve this appendix, as with other chapters and appendices, but noted the difficulty of having a single surveillance programme suitable for all countries and that the data currently available mostly concerns surveillance results in Europe. He noted that combining of categories is permitted as long as the most conservative point value is applied. Dr Thiermann clarified that type B surveillance needs to be continued even after the points target is achieved. He stressed the importance of recognising that surveillance is not the only tool contributing to maintaining consumer

confidence and clarified that the *Terrestrial Code* stipulates conditions for countries that cannot afford surveillance but can still export in all cases certain commodities although in some cases under more restrictive conditions.

The President of the International Committee urged the Code Commission to continue its efforts. He proposed that the chapter and surveillance appendix be adopted with their current wording, but that solutions be found to the concerns raised by Member Countries such as Japan and Taipei China.

The appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

297. **Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever**

The Code Commission worked on the chapter on classical swine fever (CSF) to incorporate the concept of compartmentalisation. The chapter was modified significantly in order to better harmonise various articles, including with equivalent articles in the FMD chapter. However, new scientific information was not introduced.

In response to Member Countries' comments on the September report regarding country, zone or compartment freedom, the Code Commission redrafted Article 2.6.7.4., taking into account the different pathways for obtaining free status.

The Code Commission found merit in the proposal from Member Countries to merge Article 2.6.7.7. with Article 2.6.7.4. However, due to insufficient time, it deferred this point to its September 2006 meeting.

Because wild pigs are not subject to biosecurity management, a disease free compartment of wild pigs was not considered to be a realistic concept, except in rare cases. Similarly, a free zone of domestic pigs containing a wild pig population of unknown CSF status was not acceptable. Accordingly, the Code Commission proposed that the final paragraph of Article 2.6.7.7. be deleted.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.6.7.

Dr Thiermann noted that the proposal reflected the request by Member Countries for compartmentalisation to be addressed.

The Delegate of Australia complimented the Code Commission on its comprehensive work which is evolving in a very constructive way. He also congratulated the Animal Welfare and Animal Production Food Safety Working Groups on their work. He sought clarification on Article 2.6.7.5., which imposed measures on wild pigs in a classical swine fever free country, commenting that the provisions seem excessive. If a country is free of a disease, why must it test for it? He also referred to Article 3.2.1.5. 2a) in the Appendix on bovine and small ruminant semen, where a similar principle seems to apply, in that countries that are free from *Brucella abortus* are required to test for it. He believed that countries that have invested considerable effort and expense in eradicating a disease should not have additional costs placed on them. Dr Thiermann thanked the Delegate for his comment and replied that Article 2.6.7.4. (as amended in the March 2006 report of the Code Commission) could be used by any Member Countries claiming historical freedom from classical swine fever; this Article did not require a specific surveillance programme.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

298. **Chapter 2.7.12. Avian influenza**

Dr Thiermann recalled that, during the 73rd General Session, a revised chapter on avian influenza was adopted by the OIE International Committee. This revised chapter and the comments received from Member Countries and an expert were considered by the Code Commission. A number of general comments were received and were taken into account when addressing specific articles, in particular comments on compartmentalisation and vaccination.

Point 2 of Article 2.7.12.1. was modified to clarify the intention to include all domesticated poultry, including backyard birds, in the definition of 'poultry'.

With respect to vaccination, the Code Commission noted that Appendix 3.8.9. addressed the issue and inserted reference to this appendix in the text. It also decided to forward detailed comments on vaccination from some Member Countries to the Scientific Commission for expert opinion.

The Code Commission took into account the scientific opinion of EFSA³⁶ that there was no evidence that natural low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) infections in layers had resulted in eggs containing virus internally. However, as LPAI virus was excreted in the faeces, surface disinfection was considered necessary. As a result, it proposed the deletion of paragraph 2 in Article 2.7.12.12.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann recalled the extensive changes made to the chapter in 2005 and indicated that Member Countries' comments had been used to improve the definition of "poultry", and to make recommendations on vaccination and inactivation. Further work was required.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.7.12.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, expressed his belief that the chapter and appendices on avian influenza were good tools for safe trade and supported the proposals. He noted the problems caused by the use of vaccination and hoped that further information would be available soon from the OIE on international trade in vaccinated birds.

The Delegate of South Africa indicated his concern at the deletion of the requirement of "coming from birds kept in NAI³⁷ free establishments" for semen in Article 2.7.12.16. and fresh meat of poultry in Article 2.7.12.19., stating that he believed that it is important for international trade purposes that these products come from an NAI free establishment. Dr Thiermann explained that the deletion was proposed based on the recommendations of experts but promised that he would make further inquiries to the *ad hoc* Group.

The Delegate of Malaysia sought clarification on whether vaccination of high risk populations such as captured wild birds and poultry near water would affect the free status of a country; he requested clear guidelines for preventive vaccination. Dr Thiermann indicated that the OIE is preparing a paper on vaccination strategies for the guidance of Member Countries.

³⁶ EFSA: European Food Safety Authority

³⁷ NAI: notifiable avian influenza

The Delegate of Colombia sought further recommendations for surveillance systems in developing countries where vaccination is practiced, and expressed her interest in the application of compartmentalisation. Dr Thiermann stated that the OIE would continue its work on vaccination, including the acceptance of vaccinated birds, and that an additional document on compartmentalisation for poultry with regard to avian influenza would be supplied to help the application of this complex concept in the field.

Dr Vallat explained that a provisional document on vaccination strategy would be presented at the General Session, and noted that technical information on compartmentalisation would soon be published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*.

The Delegate of Philippines asked whether comments on different chapters or appendices would be considered by the Code Commission at its next meeting. Dr Thiermann replied in the affirmative.

The Delegate of Vietnam noted that vaccination had been used in his country and expressed his willingness to contribute to the work on vaccination from a developing country's viewpoint. Dr Thiermann appreciated the offer from the Delegate of Vietnam.

The Delegate of Malaysia noted the importance for infected countries of the concept of compartmentalisation with regard to avian influenza not only for trade but also for animal health within the country.

The Delegate of Mali commended the work on this chapter, but wondered what would be the factors enabling the application of compartmentalisation, as such a concept was not recommended in the FMD chapter.

Dr Thiermann expressed his view that certain combinations of species/diseases, such as poultry/avian influenza, would be more appropriate for the application of compartmentalisation than others but the OIE is not excluding any disease from the concept.

The President, on behalf of the International Committee, congratulated the dynamic commitment of the Director General and the entire OIE team regarding avian influenza – conferences, dissemination of information, and improving the capacity of Veterinary Services especially in developing countries. He also stressed the importance of establishing compartments before a disease outbreak.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

299. Appendix 3.8.9. Guidelines for the surveillance of avian influenza

Dr Thiermann recalled that during the 73rd General Session, a newly developed surveillance appendix for avian influenza was adopted by the OIE International Committee. He noted that the Code Commission had made minor modifications to the appendix mainly for clarification or consistency of terminology.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Appendix 3.8.9.

The Appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

300. Appendix 3.6.X. Avian influenza virus inactivation guidelines

The Code Commission drafted a new appendix on procedures for the inactivation of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) virus. The Code Commission made the necessary corrections to the table in Appendix 3.6.X. presented in its September report, updating older industry standards to values determined by recent scientific studies.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the draft Appendix 3.6.X.

The Appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

301. Appendix 3.2.1. Bovine and small ruminant semen

The Code Commission examined comments from Member Countries and made appropriate modifications mostly for clarification and consistency of terminology.

With respect to bovine brucellosis in paragraph 2 of Article 3.2.1.5., the reference to free status of the country was deleted, pending the outcome of the current revision of the brucellosis chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on the revised Appendix 3.2.1. on Bovine and small ruminant semen.

Dr Thiermann noted that the current chapter on brucellosis allowed “free countries” to have a certain level of infection; as a result, the testing of individual semen donors was recommended. This issue will be addressed in the proposed new chapter.

The appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

302. Animal welfare (Appendices 3.7.2., 3.7.3., 3.7.5. and 3.7.6.)

The Code Commission examined and endorsed the work of the Working Group on Animal Welfare in revising the four adopted chapters on animal welfare, taking into account comments received from Member Countries prior to the 73rd General Session, and the discussion at the General Session.

The Code Commission considered that the competence of the animal handler underpinned the OIE’s approach to allocating responsibilities for animal welfare, and believed that such competence should be independently evaluated and certified.

The Code Commission considered that some comments received needed to be discussed by either the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group during its next meeting in July 2006, or by specific *ad hoc* Groups before the Code Commission’s next meeting in September 2006.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Appendix 3.7.2.

Dr Thiermann indicated that some specific comments were being addressed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare and various experts, and that not all comments were included for adoption.

The President opened the discussion on Appendix 3.7.2.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, thanked and congratulated the Working Group on Animal Welfare for its work and particularly the chairman of the Group, Dr David Bayvel, for his presentation. She urged the Delegates to note that only one year after the adoption of the animal welfare standards, improvements are regularly introduced.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom also indicated that the European Union fully supported the earlier comments of Australia. Regarding the transport texts, she emphasised the importance of their correct application and hoped that responsibilities would be better defined in a revised text.

Dr Thiermann stressed that the revision of the definition on “animal handler” will have repercussions on the text of the sea and land transport guidelines on animal welfare. He also indicated that some recommendations on species-specific issues will be added to the text.

Appendix 3.7.2. was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Appendix 3.7.3.

The President opened the discussion on Appendix 3.7.3.

The Appendix 3.7.3. was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Appendix 3.7.5.

The President opened the discussion on Appendix 3.7.5.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the adoption of this text and proposed the preparation of training materials on these guidelines to ensure their proper application. Dr Thiermann thanked the Delegate of the United Kingdom for her assistance, especially regarding the provision of new scientific information.

The Delegate of Malaysia asked for additional clarification on the inclusion of religious slaughter within these guidelines.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the OIE is aware of the need to address various religious slaughter methods. He indicated that experts of different religious backgrounds had participated in the *ad hoc* Group that drafted this chapter and their opinions were considered in its development.

The President of the International Committee remarked on the importance of the work on animal welfare done by the Working Group and he asked the Delegates to adopt this chapter.

Recalling that Article 3.7.5.5. on the management of foetuses during the slaughter of pregnant animals had been placed under study during the 73rd General Session, Dr Thiermann noted that the text together with the comments from Member Countries had been sent to experts for discussion. These countries, after the provision of arguments and evidence, accepted the revised proposals. This text will remain under study and it will be discussed during the next meetings of the Working Group and the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann also stated that an *ad hoc* Group is awaiting new information on the use of carbon dioxide.

Appendix 3.7.5. was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Appendix 3.7.6.

The President opened the discussion on appendix 3.7.6.

Appendix 3.7.6. was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

303. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 21 to 23 September 2005 and from 25 to 27 January 2006, were presented by Prof. Steven Edwards, President of the Commission (Docs 74 SG/12/CS2 A and B). Additional business had been transacted between meetings by e-mail. He thanked the Members of the Commission, Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, and Dr Anatoly Golovko, Secretary General, for their support, and expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants, Dr Adama Diallo, representing the OIE Collaborating Centre for ELISA³⁸ and Molecular Techniques in Animal Disease Diagnosis, IAEA³⁹, Vienna, Austria, and Dr Peter Wright, President of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on NSP⁴⁰ Tests for FMD Diagnosis, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Staff at the OIE Central Bureau, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, have been tireless in their support. In order to make the work of the Commission better known, and to develop individuals for possible future contributions, the Commission would welcome proposals to enable observers to attend parts of its meetings; it would also like to increase the number of members elected to the Commission.

304. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

The Commission discussed the criteria that should be applied to new applicants for Collaborating Centre status. The difference between the mandate of Collaborating Centres and that of Reference Laboratories has been taken into account. There should be a sectoral focus, along with a discrete scientific discipline that is not disease-specific. As currently practised, applications are considered by both the appropriate Regional Commission (to confirm the need) and either the Biological Standards Commission or the Aquatic Animals Commission (to advise on technical competence) and finally by the Administrative Commission. A regional focus should also be considered. Guidelines for applicants were prepared and have been circulated to Member Countries. Regarding Reference Laboratories, the Commission emphasised that applicants should demonstrate their international profile and activity, as well as technical competence, in order to qualify as an OIE Reference Laboratory.

305. The Commission supports and recommends proposals to establish an OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonotic Diseases at the CDC⁴¹, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in Europe at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Insel Riems, Germany; and an OIE Collaborating Centre for the Training of Veterinary Services, CEBASEV⁴², Argentina.

³⁸ ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

³⁹ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

⁴⁰ NSP: nonstructural protein

⁴¹ CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

⁴² CEBASEV: Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services

306. The Commission recommends acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status. Specific contact information and the names of the designated disease experts in each case are listed in the written reports of the Commission meetings.

Avian influenza: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Winnipeg, Canada.

Rabies: Rabies and Wildlife Zoonoses Group, VLA⁴³ (Weybridge), United Kingdom.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Winnipeg, Canada.

Trypanosoma evansi (Surra): Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium.

Avian tuberculosis: Veterinary Research Institute, Brno, Czech Republic.

Equine influenza and equine rhinopneumonitis: Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium, Cambridge, United Kingdom. This will be a joint designation linked to the existing OIE Reference Laboratory at the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, United Kingdom.

Marek's disease: USDA/ARS⁴⁴, Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan, United States of America.

Contagious agalactia: Mycoplasma Group, Department of Statutory and Exotic Bacterial Diseases, VLA (Weybridge), United Kingdom.

Escherichia coli: The *Escherichia coli* Laboratory (EcL), Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

307. The Commission reiterated its recommendation that laboratories, particularly in developing countries, with the potential to become Reference Laboratories but lacking adequate infrastructure or skills, should contact existing Reference Laboratories with a view to establish a twinning arrangement. This could help address the geographical imbalance in the distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories. The Commission noted the twinning arrangement that has been agreed for an OIE Twinned Laboratory for rabies (supported by the OIE Reference Laboratory at AFSSA-Lerpas) at the State Science-Control Institute of Biotechnology and strains of Microorganisms, Kiev, Ukraine.
308. The Commission recommends suspension of the designation of OIE Reference Laboratory for echinococcosis/hydatidosis, Nicosia, Cyprus, because of lack of activities. The Commission acknowledged a request from the Delegate of Canada that the OIE Reference Laboratories for Marek's disease, Nepean, Ontario, and for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, be removed from the list. It also acknowledged a request from the Director of AFSSA that the OIE Reference Laboratories for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis, AFSSA Lyons, and for avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*), AFSSA Ploufragan, be removed from the list. Dr Edwards thanked these laboratories for their work in support of the OIE and noted that it is inevitable that changing patterns of activity will lead to some laboratories withdrawing their role as OIE Reference Laboratory, while others take on new responsibilities. It was noted that a number of Reference Laboratories have had rather limited OIE-related activities over the past two years, but enquiries had confirmed that there were plans to re-energise this strand of work.

⁴³ VLA: Veterinary Laboratories Agency

⁴⁴ USDA/ARS: United States Department of Agriculture/Agriculture Research Service

309. A number of OIE Reference Laboratories have notified changes in their designated disease expert. In each case the Commission has reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she has the appropriate expertise. The names have been circulated to Member Countries in the Commission reports.
310. Reports were received from 124/130 Reference Laboratories for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial animals and 17/17 Collaborating Centres. An analysis of the reported activities is included in the report of the January meeting. The full set of reports will be supplied to Member Countries and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. It is proposed this year to supply the reports also on CD-ROM, and feedback would be appreciated whether this could suffice in future years without the additional costs of a printed report. The Commission stressed the huge importance of the international activities of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.
311. The First International Conference for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres will be held from 3 to 5 December 2006 in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Brazil on behalf of the OIE, and recommends that the International Committee support this proposal as a means of providing a useful channel for interlaboratory collaboration and mutual support.
312. **International standardisation of diagnostic tests and vaccines**

a) A review of tests available for diagnosis of tuberculosis in non-bovine species

Dr Debby Cousins of the OIE Reference Laboratory for bovine tuberculosis in Australia had provided a report entitled 'A review of tests available for diagnosis of tuberculosis in non-bovine species'. The document is of very high quality and the Commission is extremely grateful to Dr Cousins for the work she put into gathering and analysing the valuable information it contains. The recommendations in the report were endorsed, the report has been published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, and Delegates are recommended to use this as a resource. Delegates are asked to encourage scientists in their countries to submit data to the OIE on test evaluation for tuberculosis in non-bovines, using the OIE validation template. Even if the data are incomplete, they can be accumulated to give a better overall perspective.

b) Availability of diagnostic kits for FMD from Panaftosa⁴⁵

Dr Ingrid Bergmann, OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD, Panaftosa, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, had confirmed that kits for NSP tests for FMD antibodies are available from her laboratory for OIE Member Countries, but laboratories are requested to submit orders well ahead in order to facilitate planning of production cycles. Reference sera and control materials as described in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*) are also available from the Reference Laboratory.

c) Other diseases

Efforts continued to encourage OIE Reference Laboratories to collaborate on harmonisation of diagnostic tests, and to develop OIE reference sera. A number of projects are in progress and have been detailed in the Commission reports. Nevertheless progress is disappointingly slow and Delegates are encouraged to support Reference Laboratories in their countries by providing funding and resources to pursue these activities.

⁴⁵ Panaftosa: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

d) Standardisation of vaccines for equine influenza

The Commission received a detailed report with the conclusions and recommendations of the equine influenza surveillance panel. The conclusions were appended to the report of the January meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix IX of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS2 B). In summary, the panel recommended that both the American and European lineage equine influenza A H3N8 strains should continue to be used for vaccine manufacture, even though only the American lineage appears to be circulating globally at present. The Commission commented on feedback received from vaccine companies, and requested Reference Laboratories to do everything possible to facilitate the supply of the recommended vaccine strains in a well controlled format suitable for submission of data to regulatory authorities. This would enable equine influenza vaccines to be updated when necessary to match currently circulating viruses, as is done for human influenza. Advice was also provided on sources of reference sera for standardisation of vaccines and diagnostic tests.

313. List of prescribed and alternative tests

The Commission has decided that, in view of the establishment of the OIE validation template, in future a test method will be accepted as prescribed only if full evidence of validation as 'fit for purpose for international trade' is submitted according to the template. The applicant laboratory must also give a full description of the protocol, including preparation of the reagents, which will be published so that the test can be performed in any laboratory in the world with materials that are readily available from laboratory suppliers.

a) Liquid-phase ELISA for FMD

A number of Member Countries had commented that the solid-phase ELISA for FMD serology is not available in all countries or for all serotypes, and had asked that the liquid-phase ELISA be reinstated as a prescribed test for trade. Following consultation with FMD Reference Laboratory experts, the Commission acceded to this request.

b) FPA⁴⁶ for determination of antibody to smooth *Brucella* spp. in sheep and goats

The Commission had sought the opinion of a number of experts and received a consensus view that there are not yet sufficient data to accept the FPA as a prescribed test for trade in small ruminants. The validation data are sufficient to support its adoption as an 'alternative' test.

c) Rift Valley fever

The Commission had identified a need to designate a prescribed test for Rift Valley fever in view of the newly adopted chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* (see Article 2.2.14.12.). A request had been sent to a South African laboratory, for validation data on an inhibition-ELISA. The test looks promising but, as there is a lack of reproducibility data, it cannot yet be proposed as a prescribed test. After consultation with experts the Commission proposes that the virus neutralisation test be adopted as a prescribed test, and will keep ELISA under study with a view to assessing its validity as a prescribed test when further data are available.

The Commission recommends adoption of these three proposals.

⁴⁶ FPA: fluorescence polarisation assay

314. **OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)**

Prof. Edwards expressed thanks to the Consultant Editor, Dr James Pearson, for his ongoing efforts to collate comments received from experts and Member Countries in order to produce consensus texts.

The Commission reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the expert who had reviewed a dossier on the production of FMD inactivated vaccine in primary bovine lingual epithelium cells. The recommended method of virus propagation for antigen production is the growth of FMD virus in large-scale suspension cultures or monolayers using cell lines under sterile conditions. Primary cell culture may be acceptable for vaccine production in some countries but only if the method of production is entirely compliant with good manufacturing practice, a validated procedure is applied to ensure inactivation of all possible extraneous agents and adequate in-process and final product tests are in place to ensure consistency and safety of the final product. Text to this effect has been added to the proposed *Terrestrial Manual* chapter. The Commission emphasised that this technique differs significantly from the “Frenkel method” of bovine lingual explant cultures, and that the latter method cannot be recommended in any circumstances.

Revised or new texts for the following chapters have been sent to Member Countries: Principles of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases (bringing it into line with the new OIE validation template); Principles of veterinary vaccine production (incorporating updates to regulatory requirements of certain Member Countries); and Foot and mouth disease. The FMD chapter incorporates revisions recommended by the *ad hoc* Group on NSP Tests, a new section on vaccine matching tests drafted by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for Foot and Mouth Disease, the use of primary cells for vaccine manufacture (referred to above) and various other updates including the proposed reinstatement of the liquid-phase blocking ELISA as a prescribed test. The Committee is recommended to adopt these three chapters. As agreed previously by the Committee, revised chapters that are approved at the General Session will be updated on the OIE Web site.

The Commission and the Consultant Editor have also been preparing revised chapters for the next full edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*, which is due for publication in 2008. A number of these have already been circulated to Member Countries for comment, and more will be following in the year ahead. These will not be proposed for adoption by the Committee until next year’s General Session.

Among the improvements proposed will be a harmonised approach to biological containment and biosafety, and a chapter on test standards for non-human primates. Where diseases have been removed from the OIE List, the Commission proposes to retain the relevant chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* as this is felt to be useful for laboratories in Member Countries.

315. **Validation and certification of diagnostic assays**

The validation template for submission of data for the OIE Registry of Validated and Certified Diagnostic Assays has been completed and the procedure is operational. Only a limited number of applications have been received so far. In view of the specialised nature of the tests, the Commission has asked the *ad hoc* Group on BSE Tests to work on the procedure for entry on the OIE Register in respect of this group of diseases. Diagnostics companies had expressed concern about multiplication of regulatory barriers for registration of test kits. The Commission requests Delegates to ensure that the OIE

Validation Standard is accepted as a fully effective internationally acceptable standard for test registration, and to harmonise national regulations with the OIE Standard. This is proposed for adoption by Resolution.

316. ***Ad hoc* Group on NSP Tests for FMD Diagnosis**

The *ad hoc* Group met in January 2006. The report was appended to the report of the January meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix V of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS2 B). The purpose of this meeting was to: a) review the status of the NSP tests for sheep and pigs, b) review the results obtained in comparative studies carried out by concerted actions, and c) review validation data in sheep and pigs according to the OIE validation criteria. Dr Kris De Clercq, on behalf of Dr Emiliana Brocchi, gave an account of the analysis of the data from the NSP workshop held in Brescia, Italy in May 2004, with respect to sheep and pigs, and Dr David Paton presented the results of a study on vaccinated/infected Hong Kong pigs, as well as a presentation on the NSP test sensitivity panel that Pirbright laboratory has been developing. Dr Ingrid Bergmann presented validation dossiers based on the OIE template for both sheep and pigs, as well as data on an evaluation panel prepared by Panaftosa for NSP tests in cattle. In addition, invited colleagues from Thailand and Taipei China shared their experiences in the application of a number of NSP tests under field conditions. The conclusions of the Group have been incorporated in the revised FMD chapter as mentioned above.

317. ***Ad hoc* Group on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Tests**

The *ad hoc* Group met from 9 to 11 January 2006. The report was appended to the report of the January meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix VI of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS2 B). The Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group to continue its important work regarding the procedures for validation and standardisation of assays for BSE testing and approved its use of a specialised template for submission of BSE assays to the OIE Registry of Tests.

318. ***Ad hoc* Group on Biosafety/Biocontainment Standards**

The *ad hoc* Group continued to work on drafting a 'Veterinary Biosafety Facility Construction Handbook' which has a target launch date of November 2006. Once the content is finished, it is proposed that the handbook should be published by the OIE.

As mentioned above, the Group has also worked on harmonising the texts in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual* referring to biological containment and biosafety so that they are fully complementary.

319. ***Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance**

The *ad hoc* Group met from 6 to 8 February 2006. The report was appended to the report of the January meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix VII of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS2 B).

The Group with the support of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products had analysed the answers received to a questionnaire that had been sent to the OIE Member Countries and had compiled a list of Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA). Dr Edwards congratulated the Group on achieving this difficult and complex task. The list (shown in Table 1 of Appendix IV of the *ad hoc* Group report) is proposed for adoption by the Committee.

320. **Ad hoc Group on Biotechnology**

The Commission reviewed the Terms of Reference and proposed membership for the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology. The Group held its first meeting in April 2006 and its conclusions will be considered by the Commission at its September meeting. The suggested revised Terms of Reference were circulated to Member Countries (Appendix VIII of Doc. 74 SG/12/CS2 B).

321. **Liaison with other Commissions and Groups**

a) **Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Commission noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on “BSE Diagnostic Methods: the Need for Standardisation”, and emphasised its continuing interest in this very important topic. It will continue to work with the OIE Reference Laboratories on standardisation of tests for BSE. The Commission also noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for Foot and Mouth Disease and endorsed the concept of an OIE/FAO Network of FMD Reference Laboratories.

b) **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

Following a recommendation from the OIE Conference on Rabies in Europe, held in Kiev, Ukraine, in June 2005, the Commission stated that parenteral vaccination of domestic animals using recombinant vaccines expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein in a live virus vector such as canary pox, should not be considered as live rabies virus vaccination. The *Terrestrial Manual* chapter was modified to reflect this view, and a suitable text was provided to the Code Commission for the *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

c) **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

Since the General Session in May 2004, OIE Reference Laboratories must inform the OIE Central Bureau directly of confirmed positive diagnostic results for diseases that are notifiable to the OIE (after consultation with the OIE Delegate of the country from which the sample originated). In response to a query from the Aquatic Animals Commission, the Commission recommends that this reporting requirement should not apply to diseases that are endemic to the country of origin of the sample, in order to avoid imposing over-burdensome reporting requirements on Reference Laboratories.

322. **Miscellaneous items**

a) **OIE Biotechnology Seminar**

The OIE Biotechnology Seminar held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in November 2005, in conjunction as usual with the Symposium of the WAVLD, was highly successful. The next Symposium and OIE Biotechnology Seminar will be in Melbourne, Australia (2007). The Commission agreed to the suggested title of the seminar: “Applications of biotechnology to the study of pathogenesis and pathology of animal diseases”.

b) **Guidelines on inactivation of adventitious agents**

Following reports from a number of Reference Laboratories, the Commission recognised that the current recommendation to use gamma irradiation for standard reference sera was not suitable for all applications due to apparent denaturation of

the antibody activity. There are a number of alternative (chemical) approaches. Dr Diallo had prepared a summary report on accepted methods of virus inactivation in serum, and the Commission asked him to chair an expert group to revise the OIE Guideline on the Preparation of OIE Reference Serum.

c) OIE/FAO Avian Influenza Network (OFFLU)

The establishment of the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Avian Influenza (OFFLU) was reported last year. Steady progress has been made, and both Steering and Scientific Committees have met during the year. The main barriers to progress have been the heavy demands on the experts because of the continuing spread of the disease around the world, and the slow release of funding to support the network, following the Beijing pledging conference in January 2006.

The main activities of OFFLU in 2005 were to set up the network, to agree the Terms of Reference, to exchange isolates and sequences and to setup a website: <http://www.offlu.net>. OFFLU also supported two missions: to Russia and Romania.

The main priorities in 2006 are to exchange virus isolates and sequence data among reference and diagnostic laboratories, to exchange scientific information, to communicate with Member Countries and international organisations, to provide advice, expertise and scientific assistance to infected countries and to monitor vaccine trials.

d) WHO vaccine production

The Commission provided comments to WHO on a draft document concerning development of biosafety guidelines for human pandemic influenza vaccine production. The Commission considered this document comprised a good assessment of the risks, including those arising from the use of reassortant strains for vaccine production. It advised that the proposed containment described as “BSL⁴⁷-3 enhanced” did in fact meet the requirements of OIE Containment Level 4 (specifically in regard to HEPA⁴⁸ filtration and waste treatment) and was suitable for pathogenic strains. It is hoped that the new chapter being prepared for the *Terrestrial Manual* will help resolve any confusion between Biosafety Levels 1 to 4, which are designed both to protect staff and to prevent escape of pathogens, and Containment Levels 1 to 4, which are focused on prevention of pathogen escapes.

The Commission also considered that where a vaccine strain (including reassortants) had been shown to be of low pathogenicity for poultry, using the tests described in the *Terrestrial Manual*, then the proposed “BSL-2 enhanced” would provide adequate containment. Further tests such as ferret inoculation would then be required to assess the pathogenicity for humans.

e) Assessment of classical swine fever diagnostics and vaccine performance

The Commission reviewed a document that it had requested from Prof. Volker Moennig of the OIE Reference Laboratory for classical swine fever in Germany entitled ‘Assessment of Classical Swine Fever Diagnostics and Vaccine Performance’. Prof. Moennig had prepared an excellent and comprehensive review and the Commission is extremely grateful to him. It will be supplied to the author of the

⁴⁷ BSL: biosafety level

⁴⁸ HEPA: high-efficiency particle air

chapter to assist in updating for the next edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission has also suggested that the document could be published in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*.

f) Compendium of Veterinary Vaccines for Transboundary Diseases

This Compendium has been developed by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, IICAB, Ames, United States of America. It is intended as a resource to help government officials locate emergency vaccines during a disease outbreak. Dr Edwards presented some examples of the information included (<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/IICAB/Vaccines/default.htm>).

g) Other scientific meetings

The Commission continued to support a wide range of scientific meetings around the world, either by representation in person or through its network of experts. Reports are always considered for their relevance to the work of the Commission. Details have been included in the Commission's reports.

323. The President thanked Prof. Edwards for his comprehensive presentation and opened discussions on the various issues raised.
324. The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) Member States, thanked the Commission for the important work it carries out. He expressed appreciation in particular for the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. He indicated that the EC endorses many of the conclusions reached by the *ad hoc* Group. The EC, however, has serious concerns regarding the list of veterinary critically important antimicrobials (VCIAs) and cannot endorse it in its present form because, among other reasons, the list includes substances that are banned in the EU, such as chloramphenicol and glycopeptides. He said that it is not clear why some of the substances on the list are considered to be critical. He asked how the list is to be used and whether a single list is sufficient or should more than one list be considered. He agreed that further work was necessary to refine the list and that the EU could not support the list without this work being carried out.
325. The Delegate of Australia congratulated the Commission on its very fine work. He was grateful for Prof. Edwards' explanation of the basis for developing the VCIA list and for pointing out that it is a work in progress and more work will be done. He suggested that the title of the resolution needed to reflect this point and that its contents needed to reflect the fact that the list is non-mandatory. There is still a lot of work to be done in developing the list in collaboration with Member Countries and organisations such as FAO and WHO.
326. The Delegate of Iceland agreed with the comments of the EC and Australia and could not support adoption of the VCIA list. In Iceland, the use of growth promoters had never been allowed; some substances on the list were used for that purpose and Iceland could not support their inclusion. He said that the OIE was moving too fast and that the issue needed more thorough consideration.

327. Dr Vallat suggested that as the comments relate to draft Resolution No. XXXIII, they should be discussed in that context. He indicated the rationale for the list – at a joint FAO/OIE/WHO workshop it was agreed that the WHO and OIE would draw up lists of important antimicrobials for human and animal use, respectively, as part of a strategy to help fight antimicrobial resistance. The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance drafted a questionnaire for OIE Member Countries. The draft list of VCIAAs was compiled from the responses to the questionnaire. He indicated that the VCIAA list is tentative and will be continuously revised. To address some of the concerns expressed by the Member Countries, Dr Vallat suggested that the word ‘critical’ be deleted from the proposed resolution and that the title be changed to ‘List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance’. There is a need for the OIE to develop a list so that further work in addressing antimicrobial resistance can be taken forward with FAO and WHO.
328. The Delegate of Sweden requested more time for consideration of the two changes suggested by Dr Vallat before the resolution would be accepted by the European Union Member States.
329. The Delegate of Australia agreed that the proposed title change would overcome one of the issues of contention. He proposed that a further improvement may be to include the words: ‘to continue to work with WHO and FAO, and report on this matter’.
330. The Delegate of the United Kingdom was concerned that antimicrobials that are banned in certain countries appear on the list, making it impossible for the Delegates of those countries to adopt it. She believed therefore that the list should be regarded as preliminary.
331. The Delegate of Ireland requested clarification of the purpose of the resolution and did not agree that the list could help veterinarians in their therapeutic choice as stated in the resolution.
332. The Delegate of Austria supported the previous speakers and urged that the proposed list should not be regarded as final.
333. Prof. Edwards supported the suggestion from the United Kingdom that the list could be refined by looking at subsets of antimicrobials on a regional basis or by the development of a core list of VCIAAs. He then requested Dr Teale (Rapporteur of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance) to participate in the discussion. Dr Teale stated that the list was derived from the responses of Member Countries to the questionnaire and the designation as ‘important’ was made solely on the basis of those responses. He agreed with the Delegate of Ireland that the list would not necessarily assist veterinarians in their therapeutic choice. A consensus between all Member Countries on the antimicrobials for inclusion is likely to be very hard to reach.
334. Dr Vallat suggested that a revised Draft Resolution incorporating the Delegates’ comments be prepared.
335. Prof. Edwards asked the Delegates if they had comments on the remainder of his report.
336. The Delegate of Denmark after commending the Commission on the report, acknowledged with thanks the progress made on the important issue of NSP tests for FMD diagnosis. He noted that the possibility of vaccinated pigs becoming permanent carriers of the disease following FMD infection had been considered by the *ad hoc* Group on NSP tests, and urged that further work on this issue be carried out and incorporated into OIE Standards where there were knowledge gaps. Prof. Edwards encouraged those responsible for national research budgets to fund work in this area whenever knowledge gaps are identified.

337. The Delegate of Iceland raised the issue of infection of dogs with equine influenza in the United States of America and requested more information on this issue and its possible relevance to import measures. Prof. Edwards undertook to obtain further information and the Delegate of the United States of America undertook to provide further information on this matter.
338. The Delegate of New Zealand commended the speaker on his report and asked if the Commission has done any further work on the use and application of AI vaccines. Prof. Edwards acknowledged the importance of this issue and indicated that the Commission will work closely with the Scientific Commission in developing a policy on AI vaccines and vaccination strategies. The Delegate of the United States of America also supported the need for more information on AI vaccine strategies.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXI

Adoption of three draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

339. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXXI on the Adoption of three draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXI at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXII

Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries

340. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXXII on the Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXII at the end of this report.
341. The Committee noted the report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

342. **Appendix on Ante- and post-mortem inspection**

Using a detailed discussion paper developed by the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, the Code Commission drafted guidelines on the control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. At its meeting in March, the Code Commission addressed the comments from Member Countries and the Working Group, and made appropriate modifications.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President of the International Committee opened the discussion on the draft appendix on "Guidelines for the control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection".

Dr Thiermann explained that this guideline was developed by the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

The Delegate of New Zealand expressed his support for the adoption of this appendix and noted the importance of this text in clarifying the respective roles of the Veterinary Services in relation to the OIE standards and to the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat. He stressed the fact that this text constituted a basis for the future development of

OIE standards on animal production food safety. He requested that the work on a new document on the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety (as stated in Resolution XXII) be given high priority. Dr Thiermann agreed.

The Delegate of France, on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the work done on the draft appendix and supported its adoption. However, she asked that more consideration be given to the role of the agri-food industry, since producers have the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with food legislation, under the control of the Veterinary Services. The same applies to the animal feed industry. She suggested a text be added to the appendix. Dr Thiermann welcomed the suggestion and proposed that the additional new text be submitted to the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

The appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

343. Chapter on animal identification and traceability

Dr Thiermann noted with thanks that there had been two meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Identification and Traceability since the last General Session; at the first meeting, the experts drafted definitions and the principles that became the basis of the proposal presented in the September meeting of the Code Commission, and at the second meeting they examined comments from Member Countries. He also asked the International Committee for guidance on how the OIE should proceed in this field.

The Code Commission supported the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group in revising the draft definitions and principles of animal identification and traceability.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on draft Chapter 1.3.7.

The Delegate of Australia noted that the draft chapter is subject to finalisation. He said that it should be made clear that the delivery of services for animal identification and traceability could be by a third party, under the control of the Competent Authority, clarifying the role of the Veterinary Services.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe welcomed the draft chapter and noted that the requirements on the registration issue should not be too detailed since compliance with these standards could be a burden for developing countries.

Dr Thiermann explained that the *ad hoc* Group included a balanced representation of all OIE regions including from both developed and developing countries. He assured Delegates that these comments would be forwarded to the *ad hoc* Group.

The Director General clarified that the draft chapter contains principles, which should be taken as the starting point for the development of more detailed standards. He assured the Delegate of Zimbabwe that his concerns would be taken into account by the *ad hoc* Group when preparing a guideline for Member Countries on setting up a proper animal identification and traceability system. He also informed the Delegate of Australia that his comments would be forwarded to the *ad hoc* Group in order to include this concept in the general principles.

The Delegate of New Zealand supported the comments made by the Delegate of Australia. He underlined the need to recognise that the work on the Guideline for Member Countries in Setting up a Proper Animal Identification and Traceability System should take into account that the objectives and systems used among Member Countries will vary. He suggested the work be outcome-based and not too specific.

The President acknowledged the need to consider the capabilities of developing countries. He stressed the need for the international community to agree on the role of the Veterinary Services in preserving animal and public health.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

344. **Chapters 2.5.4. (equine infectious anaemia), 2.5.6. (equine piroplasmosis), 2.5.7. (equine rhinopneumonitis), 2.5.8. (glanders) and 2.5.10. (equine viral arteritis)**

After consultation with OIE Reference Laboratories on some equine disease chapters in need of updating, the Code Commission modified the chapters on equine infectious anaemia, equine piroplasmosis, equine rhinopneumonitis, glanders and equine viral arteritis, and presented them in its September meeting report.

At its March meeting, the Code Commission examined Member Countries' comments on its September proposals and decided to forward comments on equine viral arteritis to experts for further examination and modified the chapter on equine infectious anaemia.

Dr Thiermann presented the proposals on four equine disease chapters to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann explained that the report of the *ad hoc* Group that revised the equine influenza chapter had been included in the March report of the Code Commission. The revised chapter is not up for adoption. The approach adopted in the revised chapter differs from that of a traditional *Terrestrial Code* chapter. Dr Thiermann asked the Delegates to consider the revised chapter carefully.

Chapter 2.5.4. Equine infectious anaemia

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.5.4.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Chapter 2.5.6. Equine piroplasmosis

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.5.6.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Chapter 2.5.7. Equine rhinopneumonitis

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.5.7.

The chapter was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

Chapter 2.5.8. Glanders

The President opened the discussion on the revised Chapter 2.5.8.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, could not support adoption of this chapter due to the written comments already submitted to the Code Commission.

The Delegate of New Zealand supported the position presented by the Delegate of Denmark and stated that, due to the many changes applied, the chapter should not be adopted and that there was no urgency.

Dr Thiermann replied that the proposals received by the Code Commission had been developed by an expert from an OIE Reference Laboratory. He therefore suggested referring the chapter to the September meeting of the Code Commission and asked the Delegates who had presented comments to submit specific texts.

The chapter was not adopted.

345. Appendix on General guidelines for the disposal of dead animals

The Code Commission had received a revised draft appendix on General guidelines for the disposal of dead animals from the Scientific Commission. It endorsed the experts' proposal and the proposed appendix.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The President opened the discussion on draft Appendix 3.6.5. on General guidelines for the disposal of dead animals.

The Delegate of Australia commented that, if the Committee supports adoption, Australia would not oppose it, but that the document is lacking in some areas regarding new developments, for example new ideas on pathogen inactivation and occupational health and safety. If the appendix is adopted, Australia suggests it be subject of further work during the year. Australia would be pleased to provide detailed comments.

Dr Thiermann thanked the Delegate of Australia and promised that, after adoption, the Code Commission would study the Australian comments, and he invited other Delegates to come forward with suggestions.

The appendix was adopted by the International Committee unchanged.

346. Future work programme

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission had reviewed its work programme in September 2005, taking into account the outcomes of the 73rd General Session, submissions received from Member Countries, and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

Issues already scheduled for consideration included the development of a new chapter on the small hive beetle of honey bees and revision of the chapters on brucellosis, equine influenza and Newcastle disease.

The Code Commission also intends to continue to review a certain number of chapters in an effort to emphasise science-based recommendations on the safety of commodities being traded, rather than placing too much emphasis on the status of the country or zone.

The Code Commission will also continue to search for distribution mechanisms for guidelines and recommendations on the control of ubiquitous diseases and diseases of economic importance, outside the parameters of the *Terrestrial Code* and without reference to trade consequences.

347. Dr Thiermann invited Delegates to submit comments on the future work programme of the Code Commission.

348. The International Committee noted the report of the Code Commission.

349. Dr Thiermann thanked Dr Wilson for all the good work he had done in all the years he had worked closely with him at the OIE. The Committee thanked Dr Wilson and applauded him. Dr Thiermann also thanked the members of the Code Commission and the staff of the OIE International Trade Department. The President supported Dr Thiermann's comments and conveyed his thanks and gratitude to Dr Wilson.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

350. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XX on Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XX at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

351. The President proposed Draft Resolution No. XXI on Amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXI at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIII List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance

352. The President proposed Draft Resolution No. XXXIII on the List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance. The Resolution, with modifications, was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXIII at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIV Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands

353. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXXIV on Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands.

The discussion covered the following points of Draft Resolution No. XXXIV:

- Point 1 of the Resolution:

At the request of New Zealand, a minor change was made to the wording in English.

- Point 2 of the Resolution:

The Delegate of Togo proposed the addition of "*Aquatic Animal Health Code*" after "*Terrestrial Animal Health Code*". The Director General suggested mentioning only the words "OIE standards", thereby including the two *Codes* and *Manuals*.

At the request of Uruguay, the word "Universidad" in the Spanish version was changed to the plural.

- Point 3 of the Resolution:

At the request of Morocco, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, point 3 was modified to include within the same concept public and private sector veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals comprising the Veterinary Services (as defined in the *Terrestrial Code*).

- Point 4 of the Resolution:

At the request of Morocco, the term “accréditation” was replaced by “inscription” in the French version.

354. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution with the noted modifications. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXXIV at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXV
Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses**

355. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXXV on Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses.

The discussion covered the following points of Draft Resolution No. XXXV:

- Clauses 7 and 15 of the preamble and point 2 of the Resolution:

Mali requested clarification on the wording of clauses 7 and 15 of the preamble and point 2 of the French version.

- Point 9 of the Resolution:

Senegal emphasised the importance of Member Countries, and developing and transition countries in particular, assuming responsibility for increasing investments for the control of animal diseases and zoonoses. The Director General proposed that a new point be added.

356. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution with the noted modifications. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXXV at the end of this report.

NINTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs 74 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

357. Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 74 SG/11B AF).

358. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Americas

359. Dr Peter Fernandez (United States of America), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 74 SG/11B AM).
360. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

361. Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, gave a report on the 24th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 15 to 18 November 2005.
362. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 74 SG/11B AS).
363. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Seoul.

Regional Commission for Europe

364. Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 74 SG/11B EU).
365. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

366. Dr Salman A. Nabi (Bahrain), President of the Commission, gave a report on the 8th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Manama, Bahrain, from 26 to 20 September 2005.
367. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 74 SG/11B ME).
368. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Manama.

Distribution of animal health status certificates

369. The representatives of the following countries received a certificate from the OIE on behalf of their country testifying that the country, or a zone of the country, is recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Congo (Republic of), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Mali, Myanmar, New Zealand, Paraguay, Rwanda, Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, Uganda, Uruguay and Zambia.

Dates of the 75th General Session (May 2007)

370. The Committee decided that the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee would be held from Sunday 20 May to Friday 25 May 2007.

Technical Items for the 75th General Session (May 2007)

371. The Committee confirmed the following Technical Items already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission and by the Administrative Commission:
- The use of epidemiological models for the management of animal diseases.
 - Role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in providing permanent support for the objectives and mandates of the OIE.

Technical Items for the 76th General Session (May 2008)

372. The Committee selected the following Technical Item from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the agenda:
- Integrating small farmers in animal health programmes.
373. Further to a decision of the Administrative Commission on 21 May 2004, the second Technical Item will be determined by the Administrative Commission at a future meeting so as to take into account developments in the field of animal health and welfare.

≡ FRIDAY 26 MAY 2006 ≡

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

374. The roll call of Delegates showed that 116 countries were represented at the Administrative Session and that a quorum had been reached.

Report of the Director General On the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005 (Doc. 74 SG/3)

375. Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, finance and human resources, reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE and the elections that were due to be held during the Administrative Session.
376. He went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE headquarters building and the rented office space in the adjacent building.
377. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. II on the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005. The text appears as Resolution No. II at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year (1 January - 31 December 2005) (Doc. 74 SG/4) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year**
(Docs 74 SG/15 and 74 SG/16)

386. The Committee noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Correa Messuti (Uruguay) and Dr Brian Evans (Canada). The Auditors indicated that the Central Bureau had taken their observations into account.

387. The Committee noted the reports of the External Auditor.
388. The Delegate of Australia requested clarification regarding the accounting documents that would in future be appended to Doc. 74 SG/4. Mrs Cordier explained that from the following year the table on the consolidated balance sheet would include an income statement.
389. The Delegate of Singapore noted that the accounts presented did not comply with international accounting standards. He congratulated the Central Bureau on the excellent results achieved. He requested information on the types of investments that had been made yielding double the estimated return. Dr Angot indicated that the OIE Basic Texts did not oblige the Central Bureau to comply with international accounting standards and that the aim was to present documents that were as clear and as easily understandable as possible. Dr Vallat pointed out that the OIE was obliged, according to Basic Texts, to make investments without risk.
390. The Delegate of Germany announced that he would submit questions in a separate letter to the OIE.
391. The Delegate of South Africa queried the results relating to sale of publications that were lower than the estimated figure. Dr Vallat explained that the global trend was for a decline in sales of printed publications and furthermore that two members of the Department in question had been on long-term sick leave. He announced that an electronic shop would shortly be set up and that a more aggressive publicity policy was being defined.
392. Draft Resolution No. III on the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE was adopted by a majority vote, one Delegate having abstained (Germany). The text appears as Resolution No. III at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings

393. The Director General sincerely thanked the Governments of:
- Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Djibouti, France, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vietnam, Yemen, and the European Commission for their voluntary contributions or subsidies for the implementation of OIE programmes in 2005.
 - Argentina, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay and Vietnam for their participation in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2005.
394. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. IX. The text appears as Resolution No. IX at the end of this report.

Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor

(Doc. 74 SG/17)

395. The President proposed that the Committee renew the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as the External Auditor of the OIE for a period of one year.
396. The Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. VIII. The text appears as Resolution No. VIII at the end of this report.

2006 Budget

(Doc. 74 SG/5) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. X
Director General's Work Programme for 2006–2008**

404. Dr Vallat presented the draft work programme for the period 2006–2008, which had been drawn up in compliance with the Fourth Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee in May 2005.
405. The Delegate of Belgium supported the draft work programme but said that he could not agree to a 20% increase in contributions.
406. The Delegate of Swaziland asked for further information on work in the area of food safety. Dr Vallat replied that food safety is covered by the work programme (Chapter 2.2.1.).
407. The Delegate of Denmark expressed his support but proposed that the draft programme include a specific reference to emergency plans. Dr Vallat said that a paragraph would be included mentioning support for Member Countries in drawing up emergency plans for priority diseases.
408. The Delegate of New Zealand congratulated the Director General on this ambitious work programme and agreed to its budgetary consequences.
409. The Delegate of Bolivia asked whether the new mechanism would replace current financing for Regional Representations. Dr Vallat stated that the proposed new mechanism would supplement current financing to ensure that OIE Regional Representations have sustainable resources. He also said that the donor agencies require sustainable financial mechanisms to be put in place.

410. The Delegate of Morocco welcomed the work programme but said that it would be difficult to make a sharp increase in Member Countries' contributions. The Director General said that the proposed increase in contributions for 2007 was as modest as possible given the OIE's requirements.
411. The Delegate of the United States of America praised the excellent work carried out by the OIE and expressed support for the draft work programme.
412. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. X at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. VI
Relating to the setting up of a new financial mechanism
for the Regional Representations**

413. Dr Vallat presented Draft Resolution No. VI Relating to the setting up of a new financial mechanism for the Regional Representations.
414. The Delegate of Cuba stated that he was aware of the need to increase the OIE's financial resources and emphasised that the budgetary results recorded in recent years had been excellent, but considered that a 20% increase in Member Countries' contributions was excessive. He would therefore be voting against the Draft Resolution.
415. The Draft Resolution was adopted by a majority, 10 countries having voted against (Albania, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania, Togo) and 17 countries having abstained (Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Colombia, Germany, Guinea Bissau, India, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America).

The Draft Resolution appears as Resolution No. VI at the end of this report.

**Proposed 2007 Contributions Scale
and 2007 Budget Estimates**

(Doc. 74 SG/6) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XI
Work Programme for 2007**

426. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XI on the Work Programme for 2007.
427. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XI at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XII
Authorisation given to the Director General to undertake a study and, if necessary, to propose, in May 2007 a modification to the number of categories of contribution in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the 4th Strategic Plan**

428. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XII on Authorisation given to the Director to undertake a study and, if necessary, to propose, in May 2007 a modification in the number of categories of contribution in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the 4th Strategic Plan.
429. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XII at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**

430. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), approved by the Administrative Commission.
431. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XIII at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

432. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), approved by the Administrative Commission.
433. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XIV at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD)**

434. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD), approved by the Administrative Commission.
435. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XV at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)**

436. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM), approved by the Administrative Commission.
437. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XVI at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Egg Commission (IEC)**

438. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Egg Commission (IEC), approved by the Administrative Commission.
439. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII
Terms of Reference of the OIE Regional Commissions of the OIE**

440. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption the Terms of Reference of the OIE Regional Commissions, drawn up for the purpose of clarification.
441. The Delegate of Cote d'Ivoire asked if the creation of sub-regional Commissions is envisaged. Dr Vallat responded that it is not envisaged to create such structures, but that several sub-regional offices attached to the Regional Representations will be created.
442. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX
Modification of the composition of the Laboratories Commission**

443. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XIX on Modification of the composition of the Laboratories Commission, which takes into account the increasing workload of the Biological Standards Commission.
444. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXVI
Composition of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth
Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign**

445. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXXVI on Composition of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign.
446. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XXXVI at the end of this report.

OIE Sub-Regional Offices

447. Dr Vallat informed the International Committee of the forthcoming creation in Brussels of an OIE Sub-Regional Office for Europe and discussions currently in progress for the creation of Sub-Regional Offices for North Africa, for East Africa and for Central America.

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Verification of the quorum for elections

448. In accordance with the Statutes, the President verified the number of participants. Since 124 Delegates were present, exceeding the necessary quorum, voting could take place. Dr Bouguedour and Dr Evans were designated as scrutineers.

Election of the Members of the Regional Commissions

449. The President invited the Presidents of each Regional Commission to make proposals concerning the composition of the new Bureaux. The Committee unanimously adopted the proposals for the following five Commissions:

Regional Commission for Africa

President : Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland)
Vice-President : Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President : Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea)
Secretary General : Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania)

Regional Commission for the Americas

President : Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil)
Vice-President : Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico)
Vice-President : Dr Juan Alcides Santaella Gutiérrez (Colombia)
Secretary General : Dr Victor Gongora (Belize)

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

President : Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia)
Vice-President : Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan)
Vice-President : Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Taipei China)
Secretary General : Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka)

Regional Commission for Europe

President : Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President : Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania)
Vice-President : Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland)
Secretary General : Dr Euvgueny A. Nepoklonov (Russia)

Regional Commission for the Middle East

President : Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain)
Vice-President : Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)
Vice-President : Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait)
Secretary General : Dr Faris Al haj Mohamad Al Bakhit (Jordan)

Election of Members of the Specialist Commissions

450. **Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

President

The candidature of Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (Italy) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

The President declared that Prof. Caporale had been unanimously elected as President by a show of hands.

Vice-President

The candidature of Dr Alejandro Schudel (Argentina) was proposed by the Delegate of the Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Israel, Italy, Korea (Rep. of), Portugal, Russia, United States of America and Uruguay.

The President declared that Dr Schudel had been unanimously elected as Vice-President by a show of hands.

Secretary General and Members (2)

In the absence of a candidate for the post of Secretary General, the International Committee decided that the candidate for the post of Member who obtained the most votes would be designated Secretary General.

The candidature of Dr Preben Willeberg (Denmark) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

The candidature of Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia) was proposed by the Delegate of Mauritania and seconded by the Delegates of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Togo and Tunisia.

The candidature of Dr Kebkiba Bidjeh (AU-IBAR) was proposed by the Delegate of Burundi and seconded by the Delegates of Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The candidature of Dr Kenichi Sakamoto (Japan) was proposed by the Delegate of Australia and seconded by the Delegates of Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taipei China, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Vietnam.

The candidature of Dr Ali Abdul Maged (Sudan) was proposed by the Delegate of Lebanon and seconded by the Delegates of Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen.

The results of the voting by secret ballot were as follows:

Dr Willeberg	:	76 votes
Dr Sakamoto	:	70 votes
Dr Hammami	:	66 votes
Dr Bidjeh	:	59 votes
Dr Maged	:	37 votes

The President declared that Dr Willeberg had been elected as Secretary General and that Drs Sakamoto and Hammami had been elected as Members of the Commission.

451. **Biological Standards Commission**

President

The candidature of Prof. Steve Edwards (United Kingdom) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Ireland, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore and Uganda.

The President declared that Prof. Edwards had been unanimously elected as President by a show of hands.

Vice-President

The candidature of Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America) was proposed by the Delegate of New Zealand and seconded by the Delegates of Bulgaria and Israel.

The President declared that Dr Schmitt had been unanimously elected as Vice-President by a show of hands.

Secretary General

The candidature of Dr Medhi El Harrak (Morocco) was proposed by the Delegate of Mauritania and seconded by the Delegate of Mali.

The President declared that Dr El Harrak had been unanimously elected as Secretary General by a show of hands.

Members (2)

The candidature of Dr Tony Musoke (South Africa) was proposed by the Delegate of Uganda and seconded by the Delegates of Angola, Botswana, Brazil and South Africa.

The candidature of Dr Abraham Falczuk (Argentina) was proposed by the Delegate of Brazil and seconded by the Delegates of Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The candidature of Dr Peter Wright (Canada) was proposed by the Delegate of Albania and seconded by the Delegates of Canada, Poland, Swaziland and United States of America.

The candidature of Dr S.K. Bandhopadhyay (India) was proposed by the Delegate of Brunei and seconded by the Delegates of Bhutan, Egypt, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand and Turkey.

The candidature of Dr Vladimir Drygin (Russia) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Australia, Russia and Ukraine.

The results of the voting by secret ballot were as follows:

Dr Bandhopadhyay	:	63 votes
Dr Drygin	:	46 votes
Dr Wright	:	38 votes
Dr Musoke	:	33 votes
Dr Falczuk	:	28 votes

The President declared that Drs Bandhopadhyay and Drygin had been elected as members of the Commission.

452. **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

President

The candidature of Dr Alejandro Thiermann (United States of America) was proposed by the Delegate of New Zealand and seconded by the Delegates of Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Morocco, Norway, Paraguay and Sudan.

The President declared that Dr Alejandro Thiermann had been unanimously elected as President by a show of hands.

Vice-President

The candidature of Dr Wolf Arno Valder (European Commission) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegate of Ukraine.

The President declared that Dr Valder had been unanimously elected as Secretary General by a show of hands.

Secretary General

The candidature of Dr Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand) was proposed by the Delegate of New Zealand and seconded by the Delegates of Bhutan, India, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

The candidature of Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe) was proposed by the Delegate of Botswana and seconded by the Delegates Angola, Burundi, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda

The results of the voting by a show of hands were as follows:

Dr MacDiarmid	:	76 votes
Dr Hargreaves	:	43 votes

The President declared that Dr Stuart MacDiarmid had been elected as Secretary General by majority.

Members (3)

The candidature of Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe) was proposed by the Delegate of Botswana and seconded by the Delegate of Mali.

The candidature of Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil) was proposed by the Delegate of the United States of America and seconded by the Delegates of Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Portugal.

The candidature of Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegate of Ukraine.

The candidature of Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan) was proposed by the Delegate of Saudi Arabia and seconded by the Delegates of Bahrain, Benin, Egypt, Guinea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and Morocco.

The results of the voting by secret ballot were as follows:

Dr Hargreaves	:	86 votes
Dr Caetano	:	63 votes
Dr Hassan	:	60 votes
Dr Vlasov	:	56 votes

The President declared that Drs Hargreaves, Caetano and Hassan had been elected as Members of the Commission.

453. **Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

President

The candidature of Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth (Australia) was proposed by Ireland and seconded by the Delegates of Angola, Bhutan, Brunei, Chile, India, Norway, Singapore and United States of America.

The President declared that Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth had been unanimously elected as President by a show of hands.

Vice-President

The candidature of Dr Barry Hill (United Kingdom) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Azerbaijan, Greece, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta and Poland.

The President declared that Dr Barry Hill had been unanimously elected as Vice-President by a show of hands.

Secretary General

The candidature of Dr Ricardo Enriquez Sais (Chile) was proposed by the Delegate of Argentina and seconded by the Delegates of Bulgaria, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, India, Israel, Jordan and Uruguay.

The President declared that Dr Ricardo Enriquez Sais had been unanimously elected as Secretary General by a show of hands.

Members (2)

The candidature of Dr Eli Katunguka (Uganda) was proposed by the Delegate of Mauritania and seconded by the Delegates of Burundi, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

The candidature of Dr Sharon MacGladdery (Canada) was proposed by the Delegate of Cuba and seconded by the Delegates of Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, El Salvador, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Paraguay.

The candidature of Dr Frank Berthe (France) was proposed by the Delegate of Bulgaria and seconded by the Delegates of Albania, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The candidature of Dr Donald Lightner (United States of America) was proposed by the Delegate of United States of America and seconded by the Delegates of Albania, Honduras, Israel, Poland and Saudi Arabia.

The results of the voting by secret ballot were as follows:

Dr Berthe	:	67 votes
Dr Katunguka	:	59 votes
Dr MacGladdery	:	37 votes
Dr Lightner	:	30 votes

The President declared that Drs Berthe and Katunguka had been elected as Members of the Commission.

Election of the President of the International Committee

454. The candidature of Dr Barry O'Neil was proposed by the Delegate of Bhutan and seconded by the Delegates of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Number present	:	114
Yes	:	91
No	:	15
Abstentions	:	7
Non voters	:	1

Dr Niang declared that Dr O'Neil had been elected President of the International Committee of the OIE.

Election of Vice-President

455. The election of the Vice-President of the International Committee by secret ballot was presided over by Dr Niang.

The candidature of Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) was proposed by the Delegate of Australia and seconded by the Delegates of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Singapore, Syria, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Number present	:	107
Yes	:	99
No	:	1
Abstentions	:	4
Non voters	:	3

The President declared that Dr Correa Messuti had been elected as Vice-President of the International Committee.

Election of the Members of the Administrative Commission and Auditors

456. The election of the Members of the Administrative Commission and Auditors by secret ballot was presided over by Dr Niang.

For the Africa region

The candidature of Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) was proposed by the Delegate of the Mauritania and seconded by the Delegate of Egypt.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Dr Rachid Bouguedour	
Number present	: 114
Yes	: 105
No	: 2
Abstentions	: 5
Non voters	: 2

For the Americas region

The candidature of Dr Brian Evans (Canada) was proposed by the Delegate of Cuba and seconded by the Delegates of Armenia, Barbados, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Guatemala, Paraguay, Syria, United States of America and Uruguay.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Dr Brian Evans	
Number present	: 111
Yes	: 109
No	: 0
Abstentions	: 1
Non voters	: 1

For the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region

The candidature of Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan) was proposed by the Delegate of India and seconded by the Delegates of Canada, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Sudan, Uruguay and Vietnam.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Dr Tenzin Dhendup	
Number present	: 110
Yes	: 101
No	: 3
Abstentions	: 5
Non voters	: 1

For the Europe region

The candidature of Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria) was proposed by the Delegate of Ireland and seconded by the Delegates of Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Brunei, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Guatemala and Morocco.

The candidature of Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) was proposed by the Delegate of Morocco and seconded by the Delegates of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Finland, France, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Russia, Sudan, Uruguay, Yemen, and Zambia.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Prof. Nikola Belev	
Number present	: 111
Yes	: 84
No	: 17
Abstentions	: 9
Non voters	: 1

Dr Romano Marabelli	
Number present	: 107
Yes	: 96
No	: 8
Abstentions	: 2
Non voters	: 1

For the Middle East region

The candidature of Dr George Khoury (Syria) was proposed by the Delegate of Iran and seconded by the Delegates of Armenia, Canada, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Yemen.

The results of the electronic vote were as follows:

Dr George Khoury	
Number present	: 109
Yes	: 103
No	: 2
Abstentions	: 3
Non voters	: 1

Dr Niang declared that Drs Evans, Bouguedour, Khoury and Dhendup had been elected as Members of the OIE Administrative Commission and that Drs Marabelli and Belev had been elected as Auditors.

TENTH PLENARY SESSION

Transfer of office to the new President

457. President A.B. Niang congratulated Doctor Barry O'Neil on being elected President of the OIE International Committee and for his active participation in the work of the Administrative Commission. He drew the Committee's attention to the challenges facing the OIE with regard to the Fourth Strategic Plan. He gave the floor to President O'Neil.
458. President O'Neil thanked Doctor Niang and congratulated all the elected members of the Commissions. He paid tribute to the sustained work of his predecessors, the members of the Administrative Commission and the Director General. He conveyed his thanks to Dr Niang for having presided over the destiny of the OIE with great humanity. President O'Neil thanked the Delegates who had given him their support and the Central Bureau for its excellent work. He stated that the OIE needed to maintain its policy of modernisation and he considered the strengthening of the Regional Representations to be a priority.

459. The Director General congratulated the President and all the other elected officers. He also thanked the Delegates for their active participation and their willingness to seek a consensus despite differences in culture and situation.

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

460. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
461. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2006** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to be adopted in its final form. He drew the attention of the participants to the document that had just been distributed containing all the Resolutions that had been adopted during the 73rd General Session.

Closing Session

462. The President thanked the Delegates, the rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Central Bureau, the translators and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 74th General Session closed.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

**adopted by the International Committee of the OIE
during its 74th General Session**

21 – 26 May 2006

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. I](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006
- [No. II](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005
- [No. III](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2005)
- [No. IV](#) Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2007
- [No. V](#) Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 81st Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2007)
- [No. VI](#) Setting up a new financial mechanism for the Regional Representations
- [No. VII](#) Authorisation to affect part of the surplus of the 79th Financial Year of the OIE to the 2006 budget
- [No. VIII](#) Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. IX](#) Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings
- [No. X](#) Director General's Work Programme for 2006-2008
- [No. XI](#) Work programme for 2007
- [No. XII](#) Authorisation given to the Director General to undertake a study and, if necessary, to propose, in May 2007 a modification to the number of categories of contributions in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the 4th Strategic Plan
- [No. XIII](#) Agreement between OIE and AOAD
- [No. XIV](#) Agreement between OIE and ECOWAS
- [No. XV](#) Agreement between OIE and WAVLD
- [No. XVI](#) Agreement between OIE and ICMM
- [No. XVII](#) Agreement between OIE and IEC
- [No. XVIII](#) Terms of Reference of the Regional Commissions of the OIE
- [No. XIX](#) Modification of the composition of the Laboratories Commission
- [No. XX](#) Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*
- [No. XXI](#) Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

- [No. XXII](#) Animal Production Food Safety
- [No. XXIV](#) Animal Welfare
- [No. XXV](#) Adoption of the fifth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
- [No. XXVI](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries
- [No. XXVII](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries
- [No. XXVIII](#) Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease
- [No. XXIX](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
- [No. XXX](#) Study of the Procedure to Expedite the Process for the Recognition of a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone during an Outbreak of FMD in a Member Country
- [No. XXXI](#) Adoption of three draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- [No. XXXII](#) Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries
- [No. XXXIII](#) List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance
- [No. XXXIV](#) Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands
- [No. XXXV](#) Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses
- [No. XXXVI](#) Composition of the Sub Commission for the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign
-

RESOLUTION No. I

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2005 and the Beginning of 2006

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2005 (74 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2005 and the beginning of 2006 (74 SG/2).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. II

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities
and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2005**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE during the 79th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2005) (74 SG/3).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. III

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2005)**

In application of Article 15 of the Internal Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Financial Report for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2005) (74 SG/4).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. IV

Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2007

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. V

**Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 81st Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2007)**

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. VI

Setting up a new financial mechanism for the Regional Representations

GIVEN

Resolution No. XVII, adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005, authorising the Director General of the OIE to propose, in May 2006, a new mechanism, in order to allow the Central Bureau and the Regional Representations to implement the global and regional activities planned by the 4th Strategic Plan,

The proposal by the Director General contained in document 74 SG/6,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

1. To implement an increase of 20% in the value of the contribution unit for the 2007 Financial Year compared to that of the 2006 Financial Year.
2. To allocate, with effect from the 2007 Financial Year, funds corresponding to half of this increase to the financing of the Regional Representation corresponding to the Regional Commission of which a country is a member, the other half being allocated to the Regular Budget of the OIE, in order to implement the 4th Strategic Plan.
3. To allocate the share of these funds intended for the operation of the Regional Representations only on the basis of the contributions effectively paid by the contributing countries of each Regional Commission.
4. That the regional share of the contributions of countries attached to two or more Regional Commissions shall be deemed to be due to the Regional Representation corresponding to the Regional Commission to which the Member Country first belonged on its accession to the OIE,
5. That the present mechanism shall not invalidate existing or future financial commitments to the OIE made by the host countries of Regional Representations and Sub-Regional Offices as well as from other countries and organisations supporting the OIE.
6. That the percentage of the funds allocated to the Regional Representations under the present mechanism may subsequently be reviewed within the framework of the annual budgetary proposals presented to the International Committee.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. VII

**Authorisation to transfer part of the surplus of the 79th Financial Year
of the OIE to the 2006 budget**

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. VIII

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of her mandate,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of one year (2006) the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. IX

**Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries
that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE,
or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings**

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2005,

THE COMMITTEE

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of:

1. Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Djibouti, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, Qatar, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen, and the European Commission for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2005.
2. Argentina, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, United States of America, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Oman, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vietnam for their participation in the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2005.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. X

Director General's Work Programme for 2006-2008

CONSIDERING

Resolution No X adopted by the International Committee during the 73rd General Session in May 2005,

The document 74 SG 23 presenting the Director General's Work Programme for 2006-2008, in compliance with the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the Director General's Work Programme for 2006-2008.

REQUESTS

The Director General to prepare, according to the orientations of this Work Programme, annual programmes including the corresponding budgets.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XI

Work Programme for 2007

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Fourth Strategic Plan by the International Committee during its 73rd General Session in May 2005,

Resolution No. X adopted by the International Committee during the 73rd General Session in May 2005,

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

DECIDES

To approve the 2007 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Annex I of document 74SG/6).

RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and voluntary contributions or subsidies when possible.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XII

Authorising the Director General to undertake a study and, if necessary, to propose, in May 2007 a modification to the number of categories of contributions in order to allow the OIE to implement the activities provided for in the 4th Strategic Plan

GIVEN

The *Basic Texts* of the OIE and in particular Article 11 of the Organic Statutes,

The 4th Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005 and in particular point 117, which states that a modification of the categories of contributions will be proposed to the International Committee for consideration,

That it is in the interest of Member Countries to be offered a different number of contribution categories,

That it is in the interest of the OIE to promote a more evenly balanced distribution in the choice offered to Member Countries regarding the different categories of contribution,

THE COMMITTEE

REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. To undertake a detailed study, including an analysis of the practices of other international organisations, with a view to proposing, if necessary, a modification to the number of categories of contributions.
2. To submit the proposed modification of the list of categories of contributions to the International Committee in May 2007.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XIII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the OIE and the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD),

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 19 May 2006 (74 SG/18),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XIV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the OIE and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 19 May 2006 (74 SG/19),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the OIE and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD),

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 19 May 2006 (74SG/20),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XVI

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the OIE and the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM),

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 19 May 2006 (74 SG/21),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XVII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Egg Commission (IEC)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the OIE and the International Egg Commission (IEC),

The agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 19 May 2006 (74 SG/22),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XVIII

**Terms of Reference of the Regional Commissions
of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

NOTING

That the five Regional Commissions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), namely the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, were created on the basis of the OIE Organic Rules decided by the International Committee on 24 May 1973,

AWARE

Of the need for a more precise definition of the purpose and mode of operation of the Regional Commissions, namely to take into account the evolution and the extension of the missions of the OIE and the provisions of the Fourth Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005,

GIVEN

The Basic Texts and in particular Chapter III of the General Rules of the OIE relating to Regional Commissions,

The favourable opinion of the Administrative Commission,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

1. The five Regional Commissions of the OIE shall be governed by the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions appended to the present Resolution.
2. The Director General shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions appended to the present Resolution.
3. The Member Countries hosting the Regional Conferences shall be invited to respect the corresponding provisions appended to the present Resolution.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Terms of Reference and Internal Rules

I. Terms of Reference

The OIE Regional Commissions are bodies of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) established by decision of the International Committee of the OIE to further the objectives of the OIE in each region of the world.

When Countries accede to the OIE through diplomatic channels they automatically become members of the corresponding OIE Region. The Member Countries of the Region, meeting in Conference, may vote to approve the membership of other countries.

There are five Regional Commissions (Africa; the Americas; Asia, the Far East and Oceania; Europe; and the Middle East). Their terms of reference are:

1. to hold Regional Conferences bringing together the OIE Member Countries of the Region, the OIE Regional Representative(s), the Director General of the OIE, the representatives of international and regional organisations and experts invited to:
 - a. examine within a regional framework issues relating to animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety;
 - b. produce recommendations to be submitted for approval to the International Committee of the OIE and implemented, after adoption, by the Central Bureau and/or the Regional Representations;
2. to propose adaptations of OIE decisions, programmes, strategies, policies and activities to the conditions and needs of the Regions and, where appropriate, Sub-regions;
3. to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the Veterinary Services of the OIE Member Countries of each Region;
4. to contribute to the harmonisation of sanitary regulations relating to trade in animals and animal products between the Member Countries of each Region;
5. to increase the contribution of livestock to national economies and participate in poverty alleviation through international trade;
6. to give an advisory opinion on the headquarters of the Regional Representation and, where appropriate, that of Sub-regional Representations, and on the work programmes of the Regional Representations and their sub-regional offices;
7. to examine, and where appropriate approve, applications from Member Countries of the Region relating to the creation of new OIE Collaborating Centres. Candidatures presented by Member Countries must first have received the approval of the Specialist Commission concerned and the Administrative Commission. Applications are then transmitted to the President of the relevant Regional Commission by the Director General. The candidatures are then submitted to the the International Committee for approval.

Regional Commissions shall function on the basis of the Internal Rules.

II. Internal Rules

Article 1

OIE Regional Commissions shall be constituted by decision of the International Committee following a proposal by members of the Committee or by the Administrative Commission.

Article 2

OIE Member Countries whose territory is predominantly situated in a given Region delineated by the OIE shall have an automatic right to membership of the corresponding Regional Commission. In certain cases, duly warranted by the presence within a Region of a geographical territory of a country belonging to another Region, an OIE Member Country may be a member of two or more Regional Commissions, subject to its request being accepted by the Regional Commission(s) concerned and then endorsed by the International Committee.

Article 3

Non member countries may participate, with observer status and without the right to vote, in meetings of the Regional Commissions, subject to a joint decision by the Director General and the President of the Regional Commission.

Article 4

In accordance with Article 13 of the General Rules, the Bureau of each Regional Commission shall be composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General, elected by the International Committee from among the Members on duty of the Committee, on the proposition of Delegates who are Members of the Regional Commission in question.

Article 5

The members of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions shall be elected, in an individual capacity, by the International Committee for a period of three years. Members shall be eligible for re-election.

In the event of elections to fill vacancies on the Bureaux of Regional Commissions, the Commissions may agree on regional candidatures. The candidates proposed shall be chosen from among the Delegates of the Member Countries of the Regional Commission. The President of each of the Regional Commissions concerned or, in the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall then inform the International Committee, during one of the administrative sessions of the General Session, of the proposition of the Commission. The International Committee shall then be invited to vote on the proposition.

Article 6

The Bureaux of the Regional Commissions may, in accordance with the sanitary priorities of their region, invite the Director General to convene Ad hoc Groups to analyse, discuss and develop proposals on their specific expertise. These proposals shall be submitted to the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions before being assessed by the statutory Specialist Commissions (the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the Biological Standards Commission, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission).

Article 7

The Bureaux of the Regional Commissions shall meet, in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the General Rules, at least once a year, convened by the Director General of the OIE in consultation with the President of the Commission concerned and the OIE Regional Representative concerned, to discuss the programmes, strategies, policies, activities and recommendations of the Commission.

The Regional Commissions shall meet during the annual General Session on the basis of an agenda prepared by their respective Bureaux, with the support of the Regional Representative concerned and in accordance with the Director General.

Article 8

Each Regional Commission shall hold, every two years and on each occasion in a different country, with the approval of the International Committee or, in an emergency, with the agreement of the Administrative Commission and the Director General, a Regional Conference to examine animal health, animal welfare and animal food production safety issues within the Region in question and elaborate recommendations and reports, in accordance with Article 16 of the General Rules.

Article 9

Regional Conferences shall be convened by the Director General and organised by the Regional Commissions and the OIE Central Bureau in liaison with the corresponding Regional Representation, after they have ensured that the government of the Host Country is willing to grant all the Delegates, rapporteurs and observers and the members of the OIE secretariat participating in the Conference the immunities they need in order to carry out in total independence the duties that they are required to perform, and to grant all material facilities for holding the Regional Conference. The Host Country shall make the necessary arrangements to ensure that any entry visas and stay permits that may be required by the Delegations of OIE Member Countries are issued in a timely manner.

Article 10

The programme for Regional Conferences shall be approved by the Director General and the President of the Regional Commission in liaison with the corresponding Regional Representation. Invitations to the countries concerned to take part in a Regional Conference shall be sent by the Director General to the Delegates of these countries. Other invitations shall be issued with the agreement of the Director General, the Delegate of the Host Country and the President of the Regional Commission.

Article 11

The OIE Central Bureau and the relevant Regional Representation shall assist the General Rapporteur with the preparation of meeting reports, in particular by providing secretarial staff to coordinate and support the activities of the secretariat provided by the Host Country for the Conference.

Article 12

For Regional Conferences, the OIE Central Bureau and/or its Regional Representation, if the Host Country so requests, shall be responsible for:

- defraying the travelling expenses and per diem allowance of speakers, members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and members of the Central Bureau and the corresponding Regional Representation;
- defraying the travelling expenses and fees of interpreters (if appropriate);
- printing the preparatory documents for the Conference, subject to their being received at least one month before the Conference;
- an official dinner for the participants.

Article 13

For the Regional Conferences, the Host Country shall, on the basis of a list of requirements provided by the Director General of the OIE, be responsible for:

- reserving hotel accommodation and sending participants practical details about hotels and visas and any other useful information;

- contributing where possible to the cost of hotel accommodation and catering for representatives of Member Countries, by a decision of the Host Country or local authorities;
- rental of the conference hall and additional rooms, including for the secretariat, and installation of a simultaneous translation system;
- printing documents other than those referred to in Article 11;
- secretarial support (personnel and equipment);
- coffee breaks and refreshments during the conference;
- a professional or cultural visit;
- local transport to the conference venue;
- an official dinner for the participants.

Article 14

During Regional Conferences, the Regional Representations shall provide the Regional Commissions and the Host Country with logistic support.

Article 15

Financing of the Conferences of the Regional Commissions, except for items defrayed by the Host Country under the terms of Article 13, shall be covered by the OIE Regular Budget and, if necessary, by the eligible special accounts, including those of the OIE Regional Representations.

Article 16

Representatives of national, regional or international organisations and members of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, designated by the Director General, may participate in the Conferences of the Regional Commissions and speak on topics within their field of competence. These representatives do not have the right to vote.

Article 17

The date, venue and choice of technical items for the following Conference may be established either during the Regional Conference or at the following General Session of the International Committee, on a proposal by the President of the Regional Commission in question.

Article 18

A draft report of the Regional Conference shall be presented on the last day of the Conference. The comments of participants will be recorded for inclusion in the final report, which will be established and distributed by the OIE Central Bureau.

Article 19

During the General Session of the International Committee, the President, Vice-President or Secretary General of each Regional Commission shall present the activity report of the Commission, and the recommendations and conclusions of the Regional Conferences held since the previous General Session. All these recommendations shall be submitted to the International Committee and, if approved, shall be implemented by the Director General. The vote shall be by a simple majority.

RESOLUTION No. XIX

Modification of the composition of the Laboratories Commission

CONSIDERING

the increasing workload of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, hereafter referred to as the Laboratories Commission, which makes it necessary for this Commission to have two additional experts at its disposal, and at the request of the said Commission,

the need for a geographically balanced representation in the composition of this Commission, insofar as is possible,

GIVEN

the Terms of Reference, Internal Rules and Qualifications of the Members of the OIE Laboratories Commission adopted by the OIE International Committee on 22 May 2003,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

Articles 1 and 2 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Laboratories Commission shall be abrogated and replaced by the articles hereafter:

“Article 1

The OIE Biological Standards Commission shall consist of a Bureau (comprised of a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary General) and two other Members.

Article 2

The International Committee elects the individual Members of the Bureau and then the other two Members respectively, taking into account the need for a geographically balanced representation, and the need for relevant expertise.

The Members of the Commission are elected for a period of three years.

The mandate of the Commission may be renewed by the International Committee.

Positions should be filled as they fall vacant, before the elections referred to in the first paragraph.”

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XX

Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous OIE General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the August 2005 and March 2006 reports of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 74 SG/12/CS4 A and Appendices III to XIX and XXI of Document 74 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Appendices III to XIX and XXI of Document 74 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To delete Chapters 3.1.3. on Infection with *Mikrocytos roughleyi*, 3.1.6. on Infection with *Marteilia sydneyi* and 3.1.10. on Infection with *Haplosporidium costale* from the *Aquatic Code* as proposed in the August 2005 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (body of the report of Document 74 SG/12/CS4 A).
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXI

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (in brief, the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the September 2005 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 74 SG/12/CS1 A) and recommendations in the March 2006 report of the Terrestrial Code Commission (Document 74 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices X, XI, XVII, XXVII and XXVIII of Document 74 SG/12/CS1 A in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices VIII, XIII, XVIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI and XXX of Document 74 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
3. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices III, IV, V, VII, IX, XIV, XV, XVI, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII of Document 74 SG/12/CS1 A as modified by Document 74 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following further modification:
 - a) In Appendix III (Chapter 1.1.1.), add the words '(under study)' at the end of the second sentence of the definition of the term 'animal handler' so that it reads as follows:

“Their competence should be demonstrated through independent assessment and certification from the Competent Authority or from an independent body accredited by the Competent Authority (under study).”
4. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXII

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, met for the fifth time in 2006, and drafted a work programme for 2006/2007,
2. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a ‘Guide on Good Farming Practices’,
3. The Working Group has produced a guidance paper on the ‘Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain’,
4. The Working Group has developed a draft chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on “Guidelines for the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection”,
5. The Working Group has reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on identification and traceability of live animals which produced a draft chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on “Animal identification and traceability”,
6. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure food safety standards being developed by either party take a whole of food chain approach to addressing food safety, and ensure as much consistency as possible with each others’ work,
7. The work on animal production food safety also benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO that provide additional expert advice and expertise in food safety, zoonoses and related issues,
8. The Working Group, when examining proposals for revision of model certificates, has identified the need for specialised technical advice in this area.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General continue to rely on the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him as well as the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety,
2. The participation of FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex,

3. The Working Group's 2006/2007 work programme be a guide for the OIE's activities on animal production food safety for the next year, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
4. The Working Group give special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting texts dealing with food borne zoonoses and animal feeding, complementing relevant Codex Alimentarius texts, for consideration by the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission,
5. An *ad hoc* Group be established to revise the current OIE model certificates, bearing in mind the need for a common approach with the other international standards and requirements, and the use of electronic certification. The development of the certificates addressing animal health and food safety be established to minimise the administrative load before product export,
6. The OIE develop a new document on the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety, in order to describe the involvement of Veterinary Services in food safety activities which encompass both public and animal health objectives.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXIV

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, which includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, which draws up a substantial and detailed annual work programme.
3. A successful Global Conference on Animal Welfare was held in February 2004, which confirmed the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.
4. A set of four priority animal welfare guidelines was adopted at the May 2005 General Session and is the subject of ongoing updates.
5. Four guidelines and general principles on aquatic animal welfare have been proposed by the Working Group, endorsed by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and circulated for Member Countries' comments.
6. Scoping and preparatory work is underway in respect of the additional areas of strategic priority, agreed the 2005 General Session, with an *ad hoc* Group already established to address Stray Animal Control.
7. The publication of "Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges", in October 2005, in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* Series further reinforced the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.
8. The active involvement of all OIE Member Countries will be essential to the success of the initiative.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintains the Working Group on Animal Welfare to advise him, as well as the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions, on OIE activities in the field of animal welfare.
2. The Working Group's and OIE Central Bureau's 2005/2006 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months, and the OIE Central Bureau and Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
3. Veterinary Services in each Member Country be actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of animal welfare regulations and legislation, with national animal welfare contact points established on behalf of the OIE Delegate to facilitate communication.

4. All OIE Member Countries play an active role in their Regions with relevant stakeholders including institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector in the development and implementation of OIE guidelines on animal welfare.
 5. The OIE Regional Commissions and Representations also play an active role in promoting this OIE initiative (particularly in relation to animal welfare in education), with active involvement of Working Group regional members.
-

(Adopted by the OIE International Committee on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXV

Adoption of the fifth edition of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

CONSIDERING

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, like the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation and promotion of trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,
2. Member Countries are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,
3. All chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Member Countries and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the fifth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*.
 2. To ask the Director General to publish the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXVI

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, ‘Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised’, and ‘Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries’, respectively,
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which asks that the Director General publish a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee, and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission regarding the evaluation of countries as being free from foot and mouth disease have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission proposed that an updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from foot and mouth disease and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission in consultation with Member Countries be annually adopted by resolution,
6. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free, annually confirm by letter during the month of November that their FMD status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
7. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
8. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXI delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, an FMD free zone created following outbreaks within a Member Country or its territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.3.5. and 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
9. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from FMD to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,

10. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Albania	Germany	Netherlands
Australia	Greece	New Caledonia
Austria	Guatemala	New Zealand
Belarus	Guyana	Nicaragua
Belgium	Honduras	Norway
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Panama
Bulgaria	Iceland	Poland
Canada	Indonesia	Portugal
Chile	Ireland	Romania
Costa Rica	Italy	Serbia-and-Montenegro*
Croatia	Japan	Singapore
Cuba	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovakia
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovenia
Czech Rep.	Lithuania	Spain
Denmark	Luxembourg	Sweden
El Salvador	Madagascar	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Ukraine
Finland	Mauritius	United Kingdom
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Mexico	United States of America
France		Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Taipei China, Paraguay and Uruguay

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: zone situated south of the 42° parallel;

¹ For information on the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, please address enquiries to that country's Delegate or to the Director General

* Including the territory of Kosovo administered by the United Nations

- Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on 25 November 1995 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department) and 3 April 1996;
- Malaysia: zones of Sabah and Sarawak designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General on 15 December 2003;
- Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General on 6 February 1997;
- Peru: one zone as designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2004.
- Philippines: Islands of Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate;
- South Africa: zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2005;

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

- Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and a zone situated in the western part of the Department of Oruro in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2005
- Brazil: States of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of Amazon state, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Rondonia;
- Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on January 2003 and two zones designated by the Delegate in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXVII

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 69th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XV, asking Member Countries that wish to be evaluated for conformation with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) free status to submit a formal application to the Director General of the OIE for consideration by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission),
2. An *Ad hoc* Group of experts on BSE (OIE *Ad hoc* Group for Evaluation of Country Submissions for Recognition as complying with the *Terrestrial Code* as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Free) has been set up by the OIE and the Group has developed guidelines to facilitate the submission of data by Member Countries in accordance with the requirements in the current edition of the *Terrestrial Code*,
3. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
4. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXII authorising the Scientific Commission to also evaluate submissions for provisional freedom from BSE in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. The *Ad hoc* Group has already examined submissions from several countries and made appropriate recommendations that have been endorsed by the Scientific Commission
6. These recommendations have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution No. XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee for foot and mouth disease (FMD),
7. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXI asking the Director General to establish a list of countries or zones recognised by the OIE as BSE ‘free’ and ‘provisionally free’ in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 13th edition of the *Terrestrial Code* (2004). This list should be updated as and when new countries are approved by the International Committee and shall be adopted annually by resolution.
8. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI asking the Director General to inform Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as ‘free’ or ‘provisionally free’ from BSE that they should annually confirm by letter during the month of November whether their status and the criteria by which their status was recognised have remained unchanged. The list of countries or zones is published free of charge by the OIE.
9. During the 73rd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI requesting the Scientific Commission to continue to examine the dossiers of applicant countries in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 13th edition of the *Terrestrial Code* (2004), until one year after a new BSE chapter (describing three categories of BSE country status) and all its complementary surveillance appendices are adopted by the International Committee.

10. During the 73rd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI confirming that countries which had already submitted dossiers for the evaluation of country status need not pay any additional costs should they have to renew their applications.
11. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from BSE in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 13th edition (2004) of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Uruguay.

2. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as 'provisionally free' from BSE in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 13th edition (2004) of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Chile, Iceland, Paraguay and Singapore.

3. Countries listed above wishing to submit an application before the end of 2006 for confirmation of their status will be assessed against the *Terrestrial Code* of 2004 and will remain on the list published by the OIE until May 2008.
4. Any country wishing to submit an application before the end of 2006 for negligible risk or controlled risk status for BSE, will be assessed against the *Terrestrial Code* of 2006.
5. After December 2006, all applications for BSE status will be assessed against the *Terrestrial Code* current at the time.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXVIII

**Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection
and Rinderpest Disease**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XIV ‘Establishment of a list of countries that are free of rinderpest’,
2. During the 68th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XIII designating a baseline list of Member Countries that were free from rinderpest infection. The countries included in the list certified that they met the requirements specified in Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The OIE has also developed a list of countries that are considered to be free from rinderpest disease in accordance with Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) regarding countries that are evaluated as free from rinderpest disease and from rinderpest infection have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution No. XVI which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International committee and has supported the recognition of a list of countries and zones as free from rinderpest disease and rinderpest infection for annual adoption of this list by the International Committee,
6. During the 71st General Session, the Scientific Commission proposed that Member Countries so recognised reconfirm annually whether their rinderpest status as well as the conditions under which such status was granted have remained unchanged and that this annual reconfirmation would be a requirement for maintaining OIE recognition,
7. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII resolving that most of the costs incurred by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation of country applications for obtaining the free status with respect to rinderpest disease or rinderpest infection would be recovered whenever possible from sources other than the applicant countries,
8. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from disease or infection,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from rinderpest infection, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Germany	New Caledonia
Algeria	Greece	New Zealand
Andorra	Guatemala	Norway
Argentina	Guinea	Panama
Australia	Guinea Bissau	Paraguay
Austria	Guyana	Peru
Barbados	Honduras	Philippines
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Benin	Iceland	Portugal
Bhutan	India	Romania
Bolivia	Indonesia	Rwanda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Senegal
Botswana	Italy	Singapore
Brazil	Jamaica	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Japan	Slovenia
Burkina Faso	Korea (Rep. of)	South Africa
Burundi	Laos	Spain
Canada	Latvia	Swaziland
Chile	Lesotho	Sweden
Colombia	Lithuania	Switzerland
Congo	Luxembourg	Thailand
Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	Madagascar	Taipei China
Costa Rica	Malawi	Togo
Croatia	Malaysia	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Mali	Tunisia
Cyprus	Malta	Turkey
Czech Rep.	Mauritius	Ukraine
Denmark	Mexico	United Kingdom
Ecuador	Moldavia	United States of America
Egypt	Mongolia	Uruguay
El Salvador	Morocco	Vanuatu
Eritrea	Myanmar	Venezuela
Estonia	Namibia	Vietnam
Finland	Nepal	Zambia
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Netherlands	Zimbabwe
France		

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as being free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Chad	Niger
Cote d'Ivoire	Nigeria
Ghana	Sudan
Lebanon	Tanzania
Mauritania	Uganda

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries having zones designated by their respective Delegates as free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*;

Ethiopia: zone designated by the Delegate of Ethiopia in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2004

Kenya : zone designated by the Delegate of Kenya in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2005

AND

That the Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as rinderpest infection or rinderpest disease free, annually reconfirm by letter in November of each year that both their status and the criteria by which such status was recognised have remained unchanged. It is understood that these Delegates will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest infection or disease occur in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXIX

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Appendix 3.8.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) provides for a pathway for Member Countries to be declared free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) by the OIE if an application including supporting data as outlined in Appendix 3.8.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* is submitted to the OIE. The *Terrestrial Code* also provides a procedure for the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) to review these applications and report its recommendations to the International Committee,
2. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from CBPP to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
3. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee approved Resolution N° XXIV regarding the recognition of the CBPP status of specific Member Countries,
4. Appendix 3.8.3. contains provisions for countries or zones within their territories that are continuously free from CBPP for at least 10 years and meet the relevant requirements of Appendix 3.8.3. for “freedom from CBPP” in that a) no vaccination has been carried out for at least 10 years, b) throughout that period there has been no clinical or pathological evidence of CBPP infection, c) throughout that period a permanent adequate disease surveillance and reporting system has been and is still in place covering all susceptible domestic livestock, and d) in appropriate circumstances, use of diagnostic procedures capable of differentiating *Mycoplasma mycoides* from other bovine *Mycoplasma* infections in the investigation of respiratory disease has been made, with findings consistent with freedom from *M. mycoides* infection, may be proposed to be declared free from CBPP by the Scientific Commission without the necessity to proceed through the normal intermediate steps detailed in Appendix 3.8.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. During the 72nd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII asked the OIE Director General to establish a list of countries or zones free from CBPP with or without vaccination and include in that list countries already recognised free of CBPP by the OIE.
6. The Scientific Commission continue to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee with respect to the recognition of disease free status and support the recognition of the CBPP free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee.
7. An updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from CBPP and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission after consultation of Member Countries will be annually adopted by resolution.

8. Member Countries recognise that information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia
Botswana
Portugal
Switzerland

2. The Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as free from CBPP reconfirm by letter in November of each year that both their status and the criteria by which such status was recognised have remained unchanged. It is understood that these Delegates will immediately notify the Central Bureau if CBPP occurs in their countries or in zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXX

Study of the Procedure to Expedite the Process for the Recognition of a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone during an Outbreak of FMD in a Member Country

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The International Committee has adopted a procedure for establishing a list of Member Countries and zones within their territories recognised as free of FMD according to the provisions of chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
2. New Member Countries and zones recognised as FMD free are added to the list annually by resolution at the General Session of the International Committee after a period of consultation with the interested Member Country, the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, other Member Countries and the final decision of the International Committee,
3. Recognition of FMD free status is suspended upon declaration by a Member Country of an outbreak in a previously disease free national territory or zone,
4. The list of FMD free countries and zones recognised as FMD free is important to some Member Countries for the purpose of trade in animals and animal products. These countries could sustain huge economic losses through lost trade for a period of time exceeding that required in the *Terrestrial Code* to regain FMD free status following eradication of an outbreak,
5. Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code* describes criteria by which under certain circumstances a recognised FMD free country or zone that has had an FMD outbreak can regain its disease free status in less than a year,
6. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from FMD to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
7. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
8. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXI delegating to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, an FMD free zone created following outbreaks within a Member Country or its territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of chapters 1.3.5. and 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
9. The suspension of the free status of a country or a zone within a country as result of an outbreak of FMD in the country or zone, could have a severe impact on the international trade in animals and animal products for the affected Member Country irrespective of the extent of the outbreak,

10. The provisions contained in chapters 1.3.5. and 2.2.10. and appendix 3.8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* provide guidelines to Member Countries to effectively identify and separate infected from non-infected zones within a country,
11. The provisions contained in chapters 1.3.5 and 2.2.10 and appendix 3.8.7 of the *Terrestrial Code* allows Member Countries to establish several zones of freedom from FMD either with or without vaccination, within a country,
12. Articles 2.2.10.4 and 2.2.10.5 of Chapter 2.2.10 of the *Terrestrial Code*, do not specifically require that free zones of different or similar FMD status within a country be separated from each other by a buffer zone or geographical or physical borders.
13. Some Member Countries have expressed the need for the continuation or early resumption of trade in animals and animal products in the event of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease and after appropriate measures have been taken to control the disease.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases reconsider the current provisions of relevant chapters and appendices in the *Terrestrial Code* in view of the need of Member Countries to continue with the trade in animals and animal products in the event of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease within a country or zone and after appropriate measures have been taken in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
2. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases reconsider the current provisions of relevant chapters and appendices in the *Terrestrial Code* to ensure that where several free zones for foot and mouth disease, with or without vaccination, are present in the same country, sufficient sanitary measures are provided to protect the free status of non-affected zones in the event of an outbreak of FMD in one or more of the free zones.
3. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases consider the need for possible changes to the relevant chapters and appendices in the *Terrestrial Code* to expedite the process for the regaining of freedom from disease and resumption of trade following the suspension of the disease free status of a country or zone.
4. The OIE presents its recommendations for consideration by the International Committee during the 75th General Session of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXI

**Adoption of three draft chapters for the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation and promotion of trade in animals and animal products,
2. The *Terrestrial Manual* is entirely revised approximately every four years. It is the intention of the Biological Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the International Committee, the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* will be updated on an annual basis,
3. Member Countries have been asked for the contributions of their specialists for the proposed three revised chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it is finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,
4. All chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Member Countries and the Biological Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To adopt the three updated chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXII

Recognition and implementation of OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

Participation in the international and regional trade in animals and animal products offers opportunities for all Member Countries of the OIE,

Compliance with and the maintenance of international sanitary standards for the trade in animals and animal products are major constraints for many Member Countries to successfully participate in the international and regional trade in animals and animal products,

International standards, guidelines and recommendations of the OIE and the SPS Agreement facilitate access to the international trade market for animals and animal products,

New concepts to facilitate trade in animals and animal products following technological developments in veterinary science are continuously developed and upgraded by the OIE,

Standards regarding the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services have been developed by the OIE in order to guarantee the credibility of export certification procedures established by the national Veterinary Services of OIE Member Countries,

OIE international sanitary standards may be used even by non-exporting OIE Member Countries as relevant guidelines to improve their national animal health status,

Veterinary Services of many importing and exporting countries do not yet have a harmonised system of export certification that complies with international standards,

The OIE acknowledge that within most Member Countries there are national registration authorities who are legally mandated and responsible for the registration of diagnostic assays for infectious animal diseases for use within that country,

During the 71st General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of the diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,

The final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay and adoption thereof by the OIE International Committee in terms of Resolution No. XXIX of the 71st General Session of the OIE, renders the application of such a diagnostic assay to be in conformity with an international standard of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. Member Countries of the OIE are encouraged to give recognition to and apply wherever possible, the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the OIE and adopted by the International Committee for the delivery of veterinary services and the international trade in animals and animal products.
 2. Member Countries of the OIE are encouraged to harmonise their standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays with the standards, guidelines and recommendations in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and where such standards are absent or not yet developed, to apply the standards in the *Manual* and in the OIE test register for the registration of such products within their countries.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXIII

List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance

CONSIDERING THAT

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. Antimicrobial resistance is a global public and animal health concern that is influenced by both human and non-human antimicrobial usage. The human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to prevent or minimise antimicrobial resistance selection pressures on both human and non-human pathogens.

The second joint FAO/OIE/WHO workshop on management options for non-human antimicrobial usage in March 2004 in Oslo and recommended that the concept of “critically important” classes of antimicrobials for human usage should be developed by WHO. A similar list for animal usage should be pursued by the OIE.

The list of Critically Important Antibacterial Agents (CIA) for Human Medicine was established in February 2005, in a working group meeting in Canberra.

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance prepared a questionnaire to collect proposals on antimicrobials of veterinary importance. The questionnaire was sent to the 167 OIE Member Countries and to International Organisations having signed a co-operation agreement with OIE in order to establish such a list. A list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance was compiled from the information received from Member Countries and was circulated to OIE Member Countries.

When finalised, the list could complement the OIE Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Appendix 3.9.3).

The list could be useful for the risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance in accordance with OIE *Terrestrial Code* Appendix 3.9.4. In this context, lists of CIA for humans and for animals are elements that could be taken into account in a risk assessment process.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To publish a preliminary list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance based on the list compiled by the OIE *ad hoc* Group from the answers received to the questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries.

To ask the Director General to reconvene the *ad hoc* Group to further refine the list and consider breaking it down into subcategories according to type of usage.

To use the list further refined within the framework of the work in progress with the WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on antimicrobial resistance.

To regularly update the list in accordance with new scientific information.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXIV

Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands

CONSIDERING THAT

Developments in all countries of the world with the resultant risks to animal and public health and their impact on trade in animals and animal products demand the involvement of the veterinary profession in all aspects of animal production and well-being,

Emerging and future societal demands dictate that the scope of veterinary training must include considerations of traceability, animal welfare, bio-security, ecosystem health and surveillance for animal diseases, the early detection of, and rapid response to animal disease outbreaks,

This demand needs to be met by training veterinarians and veterinary para-professional personnel in areas essential for the care of terrestrial and aquatic animals,

University and other veterinary training institutions in all countries of the world should strive to meet this challenge,

The quality of Veterinary Services and certification depends on the competence of both veterinary officers and private veterinarians, as they share responsibilities for controlling animal diseases and zoonoses and for ensuring food safety.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE should promote worldwide the development of veterinary curricula both for initial training and for continuing professional development that include the subjects dictated to the veterinary organisation by the emerging societal demand. Collaboration between universities and between universities, Veterinary Services and other stakeholders, is essential to achieve the above-objectives;
2. Universities and veterinary training institutions should develop their curricula accordingly taking into account among others the basic principles as well as the standards of the OIE;
3. The OIE should develop standards and guidelines for the continuing education of the agents of the Veterinary Services (in accordance with the OIE definition) to assure the quality of Veterinary Services;
4. The National veterinary accreditation bodies worldwide should ensure that in their accreditation procedures knowledge of the OIE standards and guidelines is included;

5. The OIE should promote the implementation of international programmes for official veterinarians in collaboration with other international organisations. To this end the use of OIE Collaborating Centres in veterinary training and recent developments in distance learning are considerable assets. Member Countries should promote public/private sectors, tertiary institutions and donor agency participation in the facilitation and the provision of the necessary fundings for these training programmes.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXV

Economic and social justification for investment in animal health and zoonoses

CONSIDERING

The significant negative socio-economic impact of animal diseases at the national, regional and global levels, especially the impact of transboundary diseases,

The recent acceleration in the global spread of certain emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases, and infections, most of which are zoonotic, as a result of globalisation,

The Global Public Good character of public and private policies and activities aimed at preventing and controlling pathogens of animal origin that could become transboundary in nature, or be used for bioterrorism,

The need to take account of the probability and impact of the various threats in order to prioritise sustainable and flexible allocation of national and/or external resources,

The existence of international standards adopted by OIE Member Countries in the areas of disease information, surveillance, and control of animal and zoonotic diseases, as well as in the area of quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services,

The fundamental role that national Veterinary Services must play in preventing and controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses, whilst complying with and implementing OIE standards,

The pressing need to ensure that these standards are implemented in all OIE Member Countries in order to prevent and contain the spread of pathogens of animal origin at the national, regional, and global levels, and to overcome the economic and other limitations to successful implementation of these standards that exist in some countries,

The existence and use, under the auspices of the OIE, of the “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS) instrument, a new tool designed to facilitate the identification of areas of improvement to bring national Veterinary Services into compliance with the OIE quality standards in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. This will help to prevent and control animal diseases more effectively and/or to demonstrate to their trading partners that the health certificates that they issue are supported by reliable procedures,

The need to continually improve this instrument, in compliance with OIE procedures, as experience in using it grows,

The decision of the World Bank and the donor community represented at the Beijing Conference in January 2006 to consider the use of the PVS tool under the auspices of the OIE as an extremely useful approach for any Member Country requesting international financial aid to build the capacity of its Veterinary Services and help to bring them into compliance with OIE standards, in order to pinpoint the fields in which priority investment must be made,

The need to conduct appropriate socio-economic and financial analyses to evaluate more accurately the direct and indirect effects of health crises of animal origin, as well as the cost of measures needed to prevent and control such crises via the activities of national Veterinary Services, in order to guide policymakers to invest in animal health policies,

The need to continue the technical, economic and financial analyses aimed at fostering the creation or improvement of national, regional and global insurance and reinsurance mechanisms for reducing the adverse economic effects of health crises on sectors and countries,

The need to support OIE Member Countries in the area of socio-economic and financial analyses relating to animal health policies,

The need to support any OIE Member Country that so requests, in the area of Veterinary Service evaluation, notably in the context of assimilating it into the Global Public Good concept, as well as in the context of the 1991 Doha Declaration aimed at facilitating the access of developing and transition countries to the international market in animals and animal products,

The need for the OIE to have Collaborating Centres to support it in the aforementioned areas, including the training of experts responsible for animal health economical surveys and for supporting the evaluation programmes for Veterinary Services in Member Countries that so desire,

The OIE mandate stemming from the Fourth Strategic Plan to improve animal health in the world, by exerting its influence on governments and the international community to invest effectively in implementing animal health and research policies based on OIE standards,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE should intensify its actions to help prevent and control animal diseases, including zoonoses, more effectively at the national, regional and global levels, by continually updating appropriate standards and guidelines and using its influence on national policymakers and international development institutions to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of all its Member Countries;
2. The OIE should continue to support the Member Countries by helping the donor community to guide investment for building the capacity of the Veterinary Services of any Member Country by promoting use of the PVS instrument worldwide;
3. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, created by Resolution No. XVII and adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2004, to make available to its Member Countries economic and financial analysis and methodologies aimed at measuring more accurately the direct and indirect effect of animal diseases and health crises at the national, regional and global levels and for identifying the best means for funding;
4. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to support its Member Countries by analysing and promoting a general framework for financing support to a global governance system for animal health. This framework should include the survey of the setting up of a global compensation fund supporting the methods used to control pathogens of animal origin (such as for culling in outbreaks) aimed at encouraging the declaration of outbreaks and facilitating early detection and a rapid response to disease outbreaks;
5. The OIE should use the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to support its Member Countries to analyse and make the case for insurance and reinsurance systems aimed at reducing the harm suffered by Member Countries and their livestock sectors during health crises;
6. The OIE should call for applications from its Member Countries to establish one or more Collaborating Centre(s) to support it in all the aforementioned areas;

7. The OIE should select and train competent experts, with the support of the Collaborating Centres responsible for training veterinary officials, to support the evaluation and then the promotion of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries that so desire;
 8. The OIE should continue its actions for promoting the quality and evaluation of its Member Countries' Veterinary Services, by regularly updating the standards pertaining thereto, as well as the PVS instrument, whenever necessary calling upon the services of the ad hoc group on the quality of Veterinary Services, which is responsible for reporting to the Specialist Commissions in this field which will make appropriate proposals to the International Committee;
 9. Member Countries are invited to include in their national budget the necessary resources to implement the OIE standards.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

RESOLUTION No. XXXVI

**Composition of the Sub Commission
for the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign**

CONSIDERING THAT:

The Sub Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease has instituted the OIE South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) control programme in 1997,

The SEAFMD Programme has so far achieved considerable success in the sub-regional harmonisation of control measures against FMD in South East Asia and is now considered as a model applicable to the harmonisation of control measures against other important animal diseases,

The SEAFMD Programme has been extended and has since January 2006 entered Phase III of its implementation,

The management of the SEAFMD Programme has not yet been entrusted to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as previously envisaged mainly because of the delay in the setting up of the Animal Health Trust Fund by ASEAN countries,

The Permanent Secretariat of the joint Regional FAO/OIE Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Asia, the Far East and Oceania is located in the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo, Japan. The GF-TADs Permanent Secretariat will also benefit from financial assistance provided by the Government of Japan and other donors,

The SEAFMD Regional Coordination Unit located in Bangkok (Thailand) will be considered as an OIE Sub regional Representation within Asia, the Far East and Oceania region,

Within the GF-TADs Agreement, OIE and FAO have decided to collaborate closely,

It is imperative to ensure that adequate national and international resources are available to sustain the Programme until the ASEAN Trust Fund is able to meet all expenses involved in its sustainability,

The 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in February/March 2006 has recommended that the OIE International Committee review the composition of the Sub-Commission to also include FAO and key donors,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

The new composition of the Sub-Commission for FMD in South East Asia be constituted as follows:

- a) President: to be nominated by the OIE Director General
- b) Vice-Presidents: Two Vice-Presidents to be elected among the FMD National Coordinators of Member Countries

- c) Members:
- i. Other FMD National Coordinators of Member Countries
 - ii. Representative of the FAO to be nominated by the FAO Director General
 - iii. The OIE Representative for Asia and the Pacific
 - iv. Representative(s) of donors contributing more than USD 150,000 per year to the Programme.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2005**

**endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 25 May 2006**

**8th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Manama (Bahrain), 26-29 September 2005

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Strengthening Veterinary Services: evaluation
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals
- [Recommendation No. 3:](#) Mitigation measures against Avian Influenza in the Middle East

Recommendation No. 1

Strengthening Veterinary Services: evaluation

CONSIDERING THAT

In order to gain access to international markets, improve public health and ensure early detection of animal diseases and zoonoses, as well as the safety of animal products, States must have quality Veterinary Services (VS) that abide by fundamental principles which guarantee their trading partners' confidence, particularly in international veterinary certificates,

Bringing VS into compliance with international standards is a priority in terms of public and private investment and calls for changes in organisation, structure, financial resources, responsibilities and interaction with the private sector,

A prerequisite for strengthening official VS is to evaluate the quality of their performance, whether for undertaking internal reforms, justifying the necessary investment or meeting the requirements of importing countries,

The Fourth OIE Strategic Plan introduces new key strategic guidelines for building the capacity of Veterinary Services to improve the safety of world trade in animals and animal products, as well as public health,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE OIE:

1. Guarantee the national and international transparency of VS evaluation by proposing that the International Committee adopt a new voluntary procedure for evaluating the compliance of Veterinary Services of Member Countries with the quality standards mentioned in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, requiring the intervention of independent international auditors under the auspices of the OIE's Director General and International Committee.
2. Continue to develop, improve and harmonise tools for evaluation of VS.
3. Mobilise appropriate international financial resources for strengthening the VS of countries that so request.
4. Organise training for regional and/or local trainers in evaluating quality of VS based on real demand to comply with international standards.

5. The OIE be urged to seek ways and means to advise regional and international organisations to harmonise efforts to strengthen the capacity building of VS.

B. THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Consider as a top priority, the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 1.3.3 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services.
 2. Encourage and set up a continuous quality assessment system for Veterinary Services based on methods harmonised and recommended by the OIE.
 3. Mobilise the necessary national, regional or international, public or private financial resources to support Veterinary Services compliance, taking into account specific national and regional characteristics as well as international standards.
-

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 2

Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals

CONSIDERING THE

Lack of a clear standard definition for the "Registration" of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals and the absence of international standards for the registration of these products,

Adverse effects of poor keeping and storage conditions on the efficacy of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals,

Absence of evaluation in some countries of the veterinary medicinal and biological products before release,

Abuse of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals in the field of animal production,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Efforts be made, with the support of the OIE Collaborating Centres and relevant international organisations, such as the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), to develop OIE standards and guidelines for the registration of veterinary biologicals and medicinal products within national or regional mechanisms.
2. The registration of these products be based on sound scientific principles to ensure the protection of animal and/or human health, as well as the environment, and not unnecessarily hinder free trade.
3. Emphasis be placed on the registration of the establishments used for storing and distributing veterinary medicinal products and biologicals.
4. Member Countries take appropriate actions to evaluate veterinary medicinal products and biologicals of national and international origin before release, using OIE standards, wherever applicable, and the expertise of OIE Reference Laboratories, if necessary.
5. Due consideration be given to the use of animal vaccines in conjunction with national disease control or eradication programmes.
6. OIE Delegates nominate a national focal point in order to develop technical exchanges with the OIE, VICH and other relevant organisations.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 3

Mitigation measures against Avian Influenza in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

The recent concerns caused by outbreaks of avian influenza in China, Russia and Kazakhstan and the possible risk of spread of the virus to other regions of the world by migratory birds should sensitise the OIE Member Countries in the Middle East to adopt mitigation measures against the disease,

The implementation of OIE international standards relating to the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services is a priority,

Early detection of the first outbreaks and the rapid response to contain these outbreaks are the key tools to effectively control the disease once it infects a country,

The present concern about the spread of avian influenza confirms the importance of providing appropriate public resources for national Veterinary Services to manage the potential risk of the disease in birds,

Cooperation with public health authorities is important for the prevention of a possible human influenza pandemic,

Combating Avian Influenza and the prevention of a possible human pandemic should start with the control of the virus in the bird population,

A vaccination strategy could be used as an additional tool in controlling the disease in the region if stamping out policies cannot be effectively implemented,

The intensification of surveillance for Avian Influenza in the countries of the Near and Middle East is a priority, as these countries are located along the migratory routes of wild birds and the cross-roads of international transportation,

The role of migratory birds in transmitting the disease requires careful monitoring and study,

The FAO in permanent collaboration with the OIE is implementing Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) to control Avian Influenza,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services in countries that are at possible risk of the disease be vigilant and ready to make all efforts in order to prevent the introduction of the Asian H5N1 strain of the Avian Influenza virus. In case of outbreaks, these countries should be provided with means to carry out strategic vaccination of birds if stamping out measures cannot be effectively implemented.

2. National Veterinary Services in the region be provided with the necessary infrastructure and appropriate public resources for the early detection and rapid response to the outbreaks of the disease in animals.
 3. It is a priority to reduce/eliminate the virus in the animal source world-wide through strengthening the role of Veterinary Services in the prevention and control measures of the disease. This is considered to be the best approach to avoid a human pandemic.
 4. The OIE and FAO be requested by Member Countries in the region to provide assistance in the development of contingency plans including securing a source of vaccines to be used in case of emergency.
 5. Countries develop and enforce appropriate legislation to enable them to react promptly in case of suspicion of disease occurrence.
 6. A compensation fund be created and fully publicised at the national level to encourage farmers and veterinarians to notify the Veterinary Services in case of a disease suspicion.
 7. Education programmes on safe poultry husbandry, including the early recognition and notification of signs and symptoms of disease, as well as marketing be designed for farmers and other stakeholders in Member Countries of the region.
 8. The OIE Delegates be in permanent contact with the OIE Central Bureau and the Regional Representation for the Middle East by providing timely information on the national status of the disease and collecting epidemiological information published by the OIE. The OIE will publish as soon as possible the findings of the mission of OFFLU experts currently in Siberia and provide relevant warnings to countries that may be at risk by migratory birds.
 9. Member Countries be encouraged to participate in joint meetings to be held by the OIE and FAO relevant to the surveillance of the migratory birds in countries at possible risk.
 10. Inter-sectoral collaboration between the Veterinary Services and the public health authorities in countries of the region be improved to strengthen efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of Avian Influenza.
 11. A delegation from the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East composed of the President and the Regional Representative participate in the joint OIE/WHO/FAO international conference on Avian Influenza to be held in Geneva from 7 to 9 November 2005 to take part in discussions being held at the global level.
 12. The conference strongly support the strategy and the programmes adopted by the OIE and FAO and urge Member Countries to proceed in close association with the OIE, with the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) related to HPAI in the region.
-

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

**24th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Seoul (Republic of Korea), 15-18 November 2005

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Asia and the Pacific

Recommendation No. 1

Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

CONSIDERING THAT

Highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia has caused far more damage in smaller farms or holdings with poor biosecurity conditions than in well managed industrial poultry establishments,

The increasing load of HPAI virus being excreted into the environment by poultry kept in the backyard and small holdings, which in consequence leads to close human contact, may increase the possibility of mutation of the virus and hence the threat of a human pandemic,

Although AI prevention and control measures exist in Member Countries of the Region, these vary considerably from country to country,

Networking with the private sector, including private veterinarians, farmers and other professionals, is an essential mechanism for early disease detection, surveillance, prevention and control in assisting the veterinary authority to tackle animal diseases at grass root levels,

Most of the emerging animal diseases included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases have zoonotic potential, but diagnostic techniques and notifications with respect to those diseases are currently not available in many countries of the Region,

Potential roles of wildlife including wild birds in the transmission of important emerging infectious diseases raise public health concerns,

The joint WHO/OIE/FAO/World Bank Conference on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 7 to 9 November 2005, has recommended that the international community support the good governance and the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Biosecurity in native and backyard poultry and small farm production sectors be improved. This may require financial assistance from governments as well as donors if necessary, for the rehabilitation of poultry farms and education of all stakeholders including farmers and the general public.
2. Requests for technical assistance by Member Countries on the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services and the proper management of HPAI outbreaks based on specific country needs be considered by the OIE. This form of assistance should be provided in consultation with the OIE Representation for Asia and the Pacific and whenever relevant,

developed in close collaboration with other international organisations, such as the FAO and WHO through the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on avian influenza (OFFLU) and or the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) Secretariat in Tokyo, taking into account the SEAFMD Programme.

3. Non-infected countries of the Region be on a high level of alert in their preparedness plans including the availability of appropriate human and financial resources, such as compensation funds.
4. If vaccination of poultry is considered in infected countries, it should be used as an adjunct to other control measures, such as stamping out, movement control, disinfection and biosecurity.
5. Vaccination could be considered in zoo and other rare birds as a preventative measure depending on the risk.
6. National mechanisms for adequate compensation to farmers be considered a priority by all Member Countries for the control of AI. External/international assistance may be explored by developing countries, if necessary, in this regard.
7. Programmes and projects be developed to promote public awareness to ensure that all stakeholders and civil society at large know how to prevent the disease in animals and humans.
8. Technical advice/assistance be provided to OIE national Focal Points responsible for reporting and managing disease information, to effectively diagnose and report diseases, which have been included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases.
9. In order to minimise the possible impact of AI and other zoonotic diseases, significant resources and investments be allocated to national Veterinary Services in Asian countries using as a basis, OIE international standards on quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services.
10. Member Countries appoint a Focal Point for wildlife diseases and be provided with technical assistance in this regard in order to be able to report those diseases.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 November 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 2

**Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy
in Asia and the Pacific**

CONSIDERING THAT

Although bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been initially confined to Europe, cases have recently been confirmed in other regions making the disease a world-wide concern,

BSE diagnosis based only on clinical signs is insufficient and surveillance using laboratory tests in compliance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, is required to detect or confirm the infection in cattle, in which clinical signs were not apparent,

Countries not having reported BSE cases are not necessarily free from the disease, and risk assessment and surveillance as well as appropriate laboratory tests are necessary to confirm the country status,

Further research is needed to fully understand the pathogenesis of BSE,

The OIE BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter contains recommendations on how countries can trade safely without the risk of transmitting BSE,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries should complete a risk assessment for BSE in accordance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, even if no case has been confirmed in the country.
2. Member Countries be encouraged to involve international experts and peer review in the development of the risk assessments.
3. The OIE assist in training Member Country officials on risk assessment and surveillance requirements in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* and diagnostics in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, and promote global and regional technical cooperation in order to assist countries with limited resources.
4. The OIE facilitate the development of affordable BSE diagnostics for use by Member Countries.
5. The OIE review over time the surveillance requirements of the BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter with the objective of simplifying the requirements and taking into account the latest scientific/epidemiological information.

6. The OIE facilitate the networking of scientists working on BSE in the region in order to share experiences and information on BSE-related matters.
 7. With regard to trade in deboned skeletal muscle meat, Member Countries with non-negligible BSE-risk should certify removal of SRMs and avoidance of contamination during processing.
-

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 November 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 74th General Session
in Paris, 23 May 2006**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. The meeting was attended by 88 Delegates and observers from 37 countries member of the Commission and from 2 observer countries and representatives of 10 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observers: France and the Netherlands

Regional and International Organisations: AU/IBAR, CEBEVIRHA⁴⁹, CIRAD-EMVT⁵⁰, CIWF⁵¹, EC, EISMV⁵², FAO, ILRI, SADC⁵³, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr Hamadou Saïdou (Cameroon), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland) and Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was read and unanimously adopted.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The question of OIE Member Countries in arrears with their contributions was discussed at length. It was emphasised that this was a recurrent problem in spite of the efforts made by Member Countries during the past three years. The President of the Commission congratulated those Member Countries that had made a special effort to pay their contributions in full.

⁴⁹ CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)

⁵⁰ CIRAD-EMVT: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire (Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine of the International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development)

⁵¹ CIWF: Compassion in World Farming

⁵² EISMV: Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁵³ SADC: Southern African Development Community

3. Proposal of a Technical Item to be included on the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee, to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following Technical Item:

‘Strategies for better management of sanitary crises in the field of livestock production and international trade’

4. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Regional Seminar on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the Role of Livestock Breeders in the Surveillance of Animal Diseases, held in N’Djamena (Chad) from 13 to 15 February 2006

After a brief recapitulation of the recommendations by Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, the recommendations were adopted by the Commission, with two abstentions (Cote d’Ivoire and Togo).

5. Arrangements for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

On behalf of his Government, the Delegate of Eritrea confirmed his country’s invitation to host the 17th Conference in Eritrea from 26 February to 1 March 2007. This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following technical items were adopted for the 17th Regional Conference:

- a) Strategy for strengthening national epidemiological surveillance systems in Africa.
- b) Harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Africa

President	:	Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland)
Vice-President	:	Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President	:	Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea)
Secretary General	:	Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania)

Administrative Commission

Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)
Dr Kebkiba Bidjeh (AU-IBAR)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Medhi El Harrak (Morocco)

Dr Tony Musoke (South Africa)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Eli Katunguka Rwashikaya (Uganda)

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan, 2006-2010

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, spoke about the essential points of the Fourth Strategic Plan and invited the Delegates to participate actively in the work of the OIE.

8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Sidibé reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. The complete report was distributed to the participants.

Following discussions and suggestions regarding the strengthening of the activities of the Regional Representation, the report was approved by the Members of the Commission.

9. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive⁵⁴ and the First Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, held in Bamako (Mali) on 24 and 25 April and 28 and 29 April 2006, respectively

The recommendations were discussed and unanimously approved by the Commission.

10. Creation of an OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali

Dr Sidibé provided information on the objectives in setting up a Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali. He spoke about the role assigned to the Centre and stated that other centres were due to be set up in the various sub-regional economic areas in Africa.

11. Information on the emergency procedure for obtaining avian influenza vaccines

Dr René Bessin (AU-IBAR) described the procedure, set up in consultation with the OIE, for supplying vaccines to countries affected by avian influenza, using the emergency fund initially set up to provide financial support for rinderpest control (350 000 EUR available out of a total of 500 000 EUR).

12. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official Agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, FAO

- AU-IBAR: Dr Tiémoko Modibo Traoré reported on the activities of his organisation. He then raised the question of Africa's potential in terms of livestock, and its relatively weak contribution compared to animal production worldwide, and emphasised the need to realise this potential.
- CEBEVIRHA: Dr Gabriel Fio-Ngaïndiro, Deputy Director General of CEBEVIRHA, presented the activities of his institution that were focused on avian influenza. He supported the candidature of Chad to host the 18th Regional Conference for Africa, due to take place in 2009.

⁵⁴ ALive: Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth

- SADC: Dr Welbourne Madzima, representative of the SADC, presented the activities of his organisation and expressed satisfaction at the signing of the agreement between the OIE and the SADC in 2003, aimed at strengthening relations between the two institutions and capacity building for the Veterinary Services in the sub-region.
- FAO: Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the FAO Animal Health Service, spoke about the activities carried out by the FAO during the past two years, emphasising the work accomplished within the context of avian influenza. He also made reference to the creation of the OFFLU⁵⁵ network.

13. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region. Proposal of a workshop in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief progress report on the implementation of WAHIS and its use by Member Countries.

The meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.

.../Appendix

⁵⁵ OFFLU : Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Proposal of a Technical Item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
4. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Regional Seminar on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the Role of Livestock Breeders in the Surveillance of Animal Diseases, held in N'Djamena (Chad) from 13 to 15 February 2006
5. Arrangements for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Eritrea in February 2007. Confirmation of the following Technical Items:
 - a) Strategy for strengthening national epidemiological surveillance systems in Africa
 - b) Harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa
6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (activities and work programme)
9. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive and of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Africa held in Bamako (Mali) on 24 and 25 April and 28 and 29 April 2006 respectively
10. Creation of an OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Centre for Animal Health in Bamako (Mali)
11. Information on the emergency procedure for obtaining avian influenza vaccines
12. Presentations of international or regional organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEDEVIRHA, SADC, FAO
13. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region. Proposal of a workshop in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 am. The meeting was attended by 73 Delegates and observers from 22 countries member of the Commission and one observer country, as well as by representatives from five international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

Observers: Spain

Regional and international organisations: CARICOM⁵⁶, IICA, OIRSA⁵⁷, PAHO/PANAFTOSA and FE

The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter Fernández (United States of America), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil) and Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico). In the absence of Dr Hernan Rojas, Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, assisted with the duties of secretary.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), auditors of the Administrative Commission, reminded Member Countries that had not paid their dues to rapidly bring their contributions up to date, in compliance with Article 3 of the OIE General Rules. In spite of the fact that contributions were successfully collected last year, a number of countries in the region still have outstanding contributions, some dating back as much as three years.

⁵⁶ CARICOM: Caribbean Community

⁵⁷ OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health

3. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) “Community involvement of small rural producers in animal health programmes”.
- b) “The impact of leptospirosis on animal and human health, as well as on the production of animal-derived foodstuffs”.

4. Proposal for a change of one technical item for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas – replacing ‘Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories’ with ‘Mechanisms for farmer compensation’

The Commission had proposed the following technical items:

- a) “Animal Welfare in the Americas”.
- b) “Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories”.

Following a brief discussion, the change of technical item b) was unanimously approved, and the item “Mechanisms for farmer compensation” was adopted. The Delegates were asked to nominate candidates to present the items. Dr Peter Fernández agreed to assist the speakers.

The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas has sent a questionnaire to all the countries of the Americas enquiring about various aspects of compensation mechanisms.

5. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Florianopolis (Brazil) from 28 November to 2 December 2006, followed by the meeting of the world network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Dr Jorge Caetano Junior reported on the preparations being made for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, and for the World Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which will be held immediately afterwards (Sunday, 3 December to Tuesday, 5 December 2006).

Both conferences will take place at the Costão do Santinho holiday complex at Florianopolis, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil.

6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

The methodology and procedures for the forthcoming elections were explained. The members of the Administrative Commission and the Bureau of the Regional Commission were unanimously elected, and candidates were nominated for the various Specialist Commissions.

Administrative Commission

- Vice-President : Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
- Member : Dr Brian Evans (Canada)

Regional Commission for the Americas

President	:	Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil)
Vice-President	:	Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico)
Vice-President	:	Dr Juan Alcides Santaella Gutiérrez (Colombia)
Secretary General	:	Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission)

President	:	Dr Alex Thiermann (United States of America)
Member	:	Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Vice-President	:	Dr Alejandro Schudel (Argentina)
----------------	---	----------------------------------

Biological Standards Commission

Vice-President	:	Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Members	:	Dr Abraham Falczuk (Argentina) First Candidate Dr Peter Wright (Canada) Second Candidate

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Secretary General	:	Dr Ricardo Enriquez Saís (Chile)
Members	:	Dr Sharon McGladdery (Canada) First Candidate Dr Donald Lightner (United States of America) Second Candidate

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti and Dr Brian Evans explained in detail the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan.

8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities, work programme and website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, including the update of the *Terrestrial Manual*)

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation. The Delegates were handed a full report. The following areas were highlighted:

- The activities and meetings that had been carried out in the region to build the capacity of Veterinary Services.
- Activities to coordinate the actions of the various international organisations in the region.
- Participation in meetings and seminars held by the OIE and other organisations.

Dr Barcos also explained the need to improve coordination between the various international bodies to prevent duplication of effort, time and resources.

9. GF-TADs update

Dr Peter Fernández, President of the Regional Commission, explained in detail the regional and global situation regarding GF-TADs, describing activities such as setting up the Regional Steering Committee, the Sub-Regional consultations that had been held, the identification of priority objectives and diseases, as well as the various measures that were being carried out. He underlined the efforts made to coordinate the activities of international organisations.

10. Other matters

- **Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories**

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, reported that the International Committee would be asked to endorse the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA) and the Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Service (CEBASEV Argentina) as OIE Collaborating Centres for emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and for veterinary training, respectively.

Three new Collaborating Centres were proposed, two by the USA and one by Canada:

- The USA proposed a Collaborating Centre for building Veterinary Service capacities, which would be based at the University of Minnesota and managed in conjunction with the University of Michigan and the IICA. They also proposed that there be a Centre for Research into Viral and Emerging Avian Diseases in the USA.
- Canada proposed a Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Diseases.

The relevant documents will be sent to the OIE and then submitted to the Member Countries for their comments and possible approval at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Brazil.

- **Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases**

Dr Sharon McGladdery made a presentation of the Ad Hoc Group's objectives and mode of operation. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, explained the items that will be submitted for adoption by the International Committee.

- **Presentations of International or Regional Organisations that have an official agreement with the OIE:**

OIRSA

Dr Luis Espinosa, Technical Director for Animal Health, provided information about the ways in which OIRSA supported its member countries in 2005 and he spoke about the organisation's cooperation activities with FAO, the OIE, PAHO and IICA.

PAHO-PANAFTOSA

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA proposals, the objectives and structure of the organisation, the principal actions and mechanisms it uses, its cooperation with international coordination bodies, and regional and subregional alliances. Dr Belloto also briefly described the status of rabies and foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the Americas.

IICA

Dr James Butler presented IICA activities in cooperation and coordination with other organisations in the region.

CARICOM

Dr Víctor Góngora explained that the Caribbean Community comprises 15 Member States (six of which are OIE Member Countries). He went on to describe its programme coordination activities and health activities in the region.

- **Proposals for a Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis (PRONABIVE⁵⁸, Mexico)**

Mexico will send the OIE an application for this laboratory to be designated a Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis.

- **Argentina**

Argentina reiterated the position regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy which it had sent formally to the OIE (Categorisation of Countries and List of Products) and it will suggest to COPEA⁵⁹ that these issues be discussed at their next meeting.

Regarding FMD, comments were made on the note submitted to the OIE on strategies for eradicating outbreaks and procedures for recovering the previous FMD status following the application of stamping out measures. Argentina will convene a technical meeting with scientists to discuss this item and submit a proposal to the OIE.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.

.../Appendix

⁵⁸ PRONABIVE : Productora Nacional de Biológicos Veterinarios

⁵⁹ COPEA : Permanent Commission of the Americas on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in Animals

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
 3. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
 4. Proposal for a change of one technical item for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas replacing 'Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories' with 'Mechanisms for farmer compensation'
 5. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which will be held in Florianopolis (Brazil) from 28 November to 2 December 2006, followed by the meeting of the world network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
 6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
 7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
 8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities, work programme and website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, including the update of the *Terrestrial Manual*)
 9. GF-TADs update (Peter Fernández)
 10. Other matters:
 - Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Luis Barcos)
 - Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases (Brian Evans/Sharon McGladdery)
 - Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: OIRSA, PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA, CARICOM
 - Proposals for a Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (PRONABIVE) (Mexico)
 - Argentina
-

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 62 Delegates and observers from 16 countries member of the Commission, 3 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam

Observers: Canada, France and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

International and Regional Organisations: FAO, ILRI, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and WHO

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan), Vice-President, and Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted with the addition of two items:

- Avian influenza in Asia (Dr Joseph Domenech, FAO)
- Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Republic of Korea)

2. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, with special emphasis on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the report of his activities and work plan particularly relating to the control of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia. His report and work plan were accepted. The President, on behalf of the Commission thanked the Government of Japan for supporting the regional activities.

3. Avian influenza in Asia

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief, Animal Health Service, FAO, updated the Commission on the activities of his organisation in the control of avian influenza in Asia including the decentralisation of activities to regional offices and the future joint FAO/OIE activities. During the discussions, emphasis was laid on the support to Member Countries in diagnostics.

4. Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Yiseok Joo from the Republic of Korea spoke on the concerns regarding the proposed amendment to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on bovine spongiform encephalopathy. A number of Delegates spoke in support of retaining the existing 30-month age limit in the existing Chapter. The President offered to pass on this view to the President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

5. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr J. Gardner Murray, President of the Commission, presented his report on the activities of the Commission. He emphasised the need for the Commission to meet more frequently in the light of the large number of activities underway in the region.

6. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 15 to 18 November 2005

The Commission adopted the recommendations. On behalf of the Commission, the President thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting a very successful Regional Conference.

7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2005-2006

Dr Ronello C. Abila, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the FMD control programme. The President complimented him for the achievements of the SEAFMD Programme during the year. The recommendations were supported, but it was noted that there may be a need to make some changes to the work plan as the programme moves into the future. The Delegate of Australia encouraged countries and other donors to continue to provide funds to the programme beyond December 2007.

8. 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) from 27 February to 3 March 2006

Dr Abila gave a summary of the results of the 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand). The Commission supported the recommendations arising from the SEAFMD meeting as well as the donors meeting but noted that certain operating parameters may need to be adjusted in order to respond to work pressures. The Commission recognised that the donors meeting indicated that funds are available only until December 2007 and supported the governance arrangements proposed. It was also decided to write formally to the President of the Sub-Commission thanking him for his contribution.

In the discussions that followed the presentation, the need for support to Member Countries in training veterinary staff and disease simulations was emphasised. It was also suggested that the OIE clarify the status of countries where HPAI virus may be circulating in wild birds. Dr David Wilson, Deputy Director General (technical) of the OIE, explained that this issue would be discussed by the International Committee during the week.

9. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Practical implementation of compartmentalisation models that meet OIE standards.
- b) Vaccine developments for transboundary animal diseases and the importance of vaccine banks.

10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010)

Dr Barry O'Neil, Secretary General of the Commission, updated the meeting on the work plan of the OIE based on the directions indicated in the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan. Recalling that the plan was unanimously adopted by the International Committee last year, he urged countries to support it.

11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

President	:	Dr Gardner Murray (Australia)
Vice-President	:	Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan)
Vice-President	:	Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Taipei China)
Secretary General	:	Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka)

Administrative Commission

President	:	Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand)
Member	:	Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Secretary General : Dr Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Kenichi Sakamoto (Japan)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr S.K. Bandhopadhyay (India)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

President : Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth (Australia)

12. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that the issues of outstanding contributions and low rates of contribution from a number of countries are of concern to the Administrative Commission. The latter recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not settled their contributions for several years.

13. Date, venue and technical items of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The offer of New Zealand to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in November 2007 was unanimously accepted.

14. Presentations of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Dr Ken Cokanasiga, Representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), updated the meeting on the key programmes underway in the SPC.

15. Preparation for General Session

Dr O'Neil clarified the OIE election process that will follow on Friday. He also asked participants for feedback on the International Committee meeting, as a special Administrative Commission meeting will be held in September 2006 to discuss how such meetings can be improved.

16. Animal welfare

The Delegate of Australia updated the meeting on workshops on animal welfare organised by Australia in the Middle East. He proposed similar collaboration with Member Countries of the Commission.

17. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, updated the meeting on the implementation of the WAHIS within the region and called on Member Countries to take the necessary steps to ensure that the system is fully operational in the region.

- **The President presented the outcome of the recent APEC⁶⁰ Ministerial meeting in Vietnam and undertook to circulate a copy of the meeting's recommendations.**

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

.../Appendix

⁶⁰ APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (activities and work programme, with special emphasis on highly pathogenic avian influenza)
3. Avian influenza in Asia
4. Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy
5. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
6. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 15 to 18 November 2005
7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2005-2006
8. 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) from 27 February to 3 March 2006
9. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
12. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
13. Date, venue and technical items of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in November 2007
14. Presentation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
15. Preparation for General Session
16. Animal Welfare
17. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region (OIE)
 - Regional activities on avian influenza (including APEC)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. The meeting was attended by 94 Delegates and observers from 46 countries member of the Commission, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom

International and Regional Organisations: Council of the European Union, European Commission, FAO, WHO

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania) and Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland), Vice-Presidents.

The President welcomed the Delegates and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted, with the following additional items under 'Other matters':

- Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe.
- New OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories.

2. Report on the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Patrick Rogan, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2005, laying emphasis on the structure and importance of Veterinary Services in accordance with the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan.

The Commission accepted the report.

3. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President urged OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe to increase their contributions to the OIE by upgrading wherever possible the category of their membership.

4. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, updated the Commission on the Fourth Strategic Plan. The Commission considered the Fourth Strategic Plan as a fundamental goal. The Plan incorporates and consolidates the policy directions of the Third Strategic Plan, and in particular:

- a) Transparency in the animal health situation.
- b) Strengthening of the role of the Veterinary Services of the European OIE Member Countries.
- c) Encouraging cooperation between official and private veterinary sectors. Private veterinarians, who are usually the primary link between farmers and veterinary authorities, are expected to apply the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
- d) Organisation by Regional Commissions of more frequent conferences and seminars covering a broader spectrum of topics.
- e) Promotion of the veterinary profession to increase its prestige and improvement of cooperation among veterinary schools.

The Commission also noted that safety and quality of food, and correspondingly public health and consumer protection, depend on a favourable epizootic situation, animal welfare and efficient veterinary controls.

5. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Monique Eloit, Delegate of France, on behalf of the Government of her country, confirmed arrangements for the organisation of the next Conference of the Commission in Lyon, France, from 25 to 29 September 2006.

The technical items retained for the Conference are the following:

- a) Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians
- b) Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools.

6. Seminars on 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe' in 2006

Significant improvement was achieved in joint activities with the European Commission under the programme 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe'. A total of 25 countries are participating in the programme.

In accordance with the implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan, the First Seminar for Europe for the period 2005-2008 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Georgi Parvanov.

Seminars have been organised in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Serbia-and-Montenegro. Experts from the OIE and the European Union DG SANCO⁶¹ and TAIEX⁶² have made presentations on topics of major importance.

7. Other seminars/conferences/meetings of the Regional Representation:

• **Conference on Rabies held in Kiev, Ukraine, from 15 to 20 June 2005**

The most important aim of the conference was to bring together veterinarians, scientists, wildlife experts, clinicians and public health officials, to share their experiences on modern methods of rabies control.

• **Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe held in Suzdal, Russia, from 12 to 14 September 2005**

The structure of national Veterinary Services of OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe was identified as a key factor for achieving the OIE objectives, for the benefit of society.

• **Seminar on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 23 to 27 October 2005**

This seminar was attended by representatives of 33 countries. The First Vice-President of the Parliament of Georgia and the Director General of the OIE also participated in the seminar.

• **Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 27 and 28 February 2006**

The Commission regarded the implementation of all nineteen recommendations of the meeting as essential in order to ensure effective action in the control of avian influenza.

The Commission adopted the recommendations of all the above meetings/seminars.

8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical item:

‘The impact of climate change on animal health and welfare’.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Europe

President	:	Prof. Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria) ⁶³
Vice-President	:	Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania)
Vice-President	:	Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland)
Secretary General	:	Dr Evgueny Nepoklonov (Russia)

⁶¹ Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General

⁶² TAIEX: Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit

⁶³ Prof. Nikola Belev was proposed as President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and member of the OIE Administrative Commission by Dr Tulegen Omarov (Uzbekistan), on behalf of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Administrative Commission

Prof. Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)⁶³
Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Wolf Arno Valder (European Commission)
Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

President : Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (Italy)

Biological Standards Commission

President : Prof. Steve Edwards (United Kingdom)
Member : Dr Vladimir Drygin (Russia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Vice-President : Prof. Barry Hill (United Kingdom)
Member : Dr Franck Berthe (Canada)

10. Creation of an OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for Europe

The Commission noted that an OIE Sub-Representation for Europe will be created in Brussels, Belgium, soon. An intern from Lithuania will help to establish the website for the Region by October 2006.

11. Other matters

• Coordination of animal welfare

Mr Georges Adelbrecht, of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, spoke of the need for the coordination of animal welfare issues, by strengthening the relationship between the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the OIE. A meeting under the aegis of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe organised by the European Commission and the Council of Europe will be held in Strasbourg, France, in November 2006. The meeting will involve animal experts from 51 countries.

• First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 13 and 14 October 2005

Dr Keith Sumption, Secretary of EUFMD⁶⁴, updated the Commission on the activities of the Steering committee for GF-TADS for Europe.

• OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories

The OIE Biological Standards Commission has recommended the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Isle of Riems, Germany, as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in Europe. This recommendation has been approved by the Regional and Administrative Commissions and is awaiting endorsement by the International Committee during the week.

⁶⁴ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (established under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – not to be confused with the European Commission in Brussels)

The Commission noted that the following laboratories will be proposed for approval as Reference Laboratories during the week:

- OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies: Zoonoses Group, Virology Department, VLA-Weybridge, United Kingdom
- OIE Reference Laboratory for *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra): Institut de médecine tropicale, Antwerp, Belgium
- OIE Reference Laboratory for avian tuberculosis: Veterinary Research Institute, Czech Republic
- OIE Reference Laboratory for contagious agalactia: Department of Exotic Diseases, VLA-Weybridge, United Kingdom
- OIE Reference Laboratories for equine influenza and equine rhinopneumonia: Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The Commission also noted that the meeting on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters on 27 and 28 February 2006 has recommended the establishment of an OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza in Vladimir, Russia. The European Union was requested to support the project.

The meeting ended at 10.00 a.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (activities and work programme)
3. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
4. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
5. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lyon (France) from 25 to 29 September 2006
6. Seminars on 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe' in 2006
7. Other seminars/conferences/meetings of the Regional Representation:
 - Conference on Rabies held in Kiev, Ukraine, from 15 to 20 June 2005
 - Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe held in Suzdal, Russia, from 12 to 14 September 2005
 - Seminar on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 23 to 27 October 2005
 - Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 27 and 28 February 2006
8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
10. Creation of an OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for Europe
11. Other matters
 - Coordination of animal welfare (European Commission)
 - First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 13 and 14 October 2005
 - Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 31 Delegates and observers from 15 countries member of the Commission, one observer country and as well as one international organisation and one observer country.

Member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observers: France

International Organisations: FAO

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan), Vice-President, and Dr George Khoury (Syria), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

2. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities and the proposed programme of work for the years 2005-2006, which was distributed to the participants.

Amongst the seminars/workshops held, Dr Yehia highlighted the First meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee and the Workshop on Avian Influenza, both held in Beirut in April 2006.

Dr Yehia also spoke on the Regional Representation Web website, indicating that some important documents, such as the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* were already in Arabic and that translation of other major documents into Arabic would continue. He mentioned the links with the OIE, FAO, WHO and other organisations related to animal health. A second website Web site on Bird avian influenza Flu is in the process of being established and countries can log in to provide their own information on avian influenza.

The Plan of activities was adopted by the Regional Commission.

3. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President mentioned the need for certain Member Countries to settle their outstanding contributions as soon as possible and requested that Delegates remind their appropriate Ministry to make the payments.

4. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for the Middle East

President	:	Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain)
Vice-President	:	Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)
Vice-President	:	Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait)
Secretary General	:	Dr Faris Al haj Mohamad Al Bakhit (Jordan)

Administrative Commission

Dr George Khoury (Syria)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Prof. Ali Abdul Maged (Sudan)

5. Recommendations of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005

The Recommendations already approved at the 8th Conference in Manama were presented to the participants and endorsed/adopted.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, stressed the importance of the recommendations on the evaluation of Veterinary Services and on avian influenza in the Middle East. He added that many countries have already implemented the relevant recommendations.

6. Recommendation of the First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the Middle East held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006

The President of the Commission explained the objectives of the GF-TADs programme and announced the establishment of the Middle East Regional Steering Committee, which will include the OIE-FAO and representatives of specialised regional organisations, as well as specific regional donors. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006.

The Regional Commission approved the Recommendation made during the meeting.

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The Director General had already presented the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 to the International Committee at the General Session in May 2005 and it has since been presented at various meetings. Each Region has established its own Plan and different countries of the Middle East region have implemented various actions. Dr Yehia indicated that the Strategic Plan has been translated into Arabic and that it is available on the website of the Regional Representation for the Middle East.

8. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- Intersectoral collaboration for presentation prevention and control of zoonoses
- Socio-economic impact of avian influenza on the poultry industry
- Equine disease-free zone/compartment: a tool to facilitate movement of competition horses

The first two items were retained for 2008 by the Commission.

9. 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (venue, date and technical items)

The Delegate of Syria confirmed that his country is willing to host the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Damascus during the first week of September 2007.

The Commission proposed the following two technical items:

- The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services.
- The Global Geographic Information System (GIS) system used for animal disease control.

10. Other matters

• **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region**

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department of the OIE Central Bureau, gave a brief description of the situation since launching the system in April 2006.

Many countries have already provided information using the system, the majority in paper form. Dr Ben Jebara encouraged countries to access directly into the system, giving information in an electronic form. He added that Delegates can designate focal points (e.g. for terrestrial and aquatic animals), acting under their responsibility.

• **Creation of an OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre in Beirut (Lebanon)**

The Regional Commission welcomed the announcement of the establishment of this Centre and urged the OIE and FAO to set up the centre as soon as possible.

At the request of the Delegates to clarify the objectives and role of this Centre, the President stressed that the centre is a coordinating mechanism.

Other countries can assist in implementing the objectives of this Centre by organising training courses and workshops related to animal health in the Middle East. They can also benefit from the list of experts available at this centre.

• **Animal welfare**

Dr Yehia indicated that following the international conference on animal welfare held in 2004, the Middle East is the first region to organise a regional meeting on this topic in Bahrain, which was followed by a meeting in Oman. Another one will be held in the United Arab Emirates in June 2006 to discuss the proposal of a common strategy concerning animal welfare in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

- **Avian influenza in the Middle East (Status and Preparedness)**

The Commission reviewed the situation of avian influenza in the region and noted that in some countries, this situation is beyond the capacities of their Veterinary Services, and urged the international organisations to give more support and assistance to countries at risk in the region.

- **Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**

The Commission welcomed the signing of this Memorandum during the GF-TADs meeting in Beirut in April 2006, which will reinforce regional activities.

At the end of the meeting, the Delegate of Somalia made an appeal to the Commission to provide support to the Veterinary Services in controlling the major animal diseases in his country. He mentioned that livestock plays a major role in national resources.

The Delegates of Iran and Sudan responded by offering to provide training courses on laboratory diagnosis for Somali technicians.

The meeting was closed ended at 10.45 a.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. 1. Adoption of the Agenda
1. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
4. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
5. Recommendations of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005
6. Recommendation of the First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for the Middle East held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006
7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008 (see “Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1997”)
9. 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (venue, date and technical items)
10. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region (OIE)
 - Creation of an OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre in Beirut (Lebanon)
 - Animal welfare
 - Avian influenza in the Middle East (Status and Preparedness)
 - Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)



Office international des épizooties
12 rue de Prony 75017 Paris France
tel.: 33(0)1 44 15 18 88 fax: 33(0)1 42 67 09 87
www.oie.int oie@oie.int