OIE regional Commission for Europe

Sixth meeting of the Regional Core Group (RCG6) for improving countries' participation in OIE activities
- 17 September 2018 - Tbilisi/ Georgia -

Report

Summary

The main objective of the RCG6 meeting was to prepare the upcoming conference and have an opened discussion on options regarding the strategic needs of the Europe region.

The agenda of the conference was reviewed and agreed upon. Preparation was for appointing chairpersons and rapporteurs of the conference committee, technical items I and II and the report on the animal health situation.

The reflexion on options regarding the strategic needs of the Europe region focused on the main following items: (i) need to adjust the standard setting procedures to reduce the annual workload for delegates; (ii) critical importance of the actual implementation of standards by the OIE members; (iii) a proper mapping of the activities of the region should be developed in order to identify the budget gaps and needs and better address all resources issues (the approach used to launch and develop the OIE animal welfare platform could serve as an example; it was also reminded that the activities of the GF-TADs Europe are of critical importance for the region, and should be further extended to rabies, and possibly PPR); **(iv)** positioning of the region on the PVS pathway.

The next meeting of the Regional core group (RCG7) will take place in Berne, Switzerland, on 17 and 18 December 2018.

Minutes

The sixth meeting (RCG6) of the Regional Core Group took place in Tbilisi / Georgia on 17 September 2018, at the invitation of the President of the OIE regional Commission for Europe, Dr Maris Balodis.

This specific meeting, organised in the margins of the Conference of the OIE regional commission for Europe, was convened as discussed during a Teleconference of the RCG on 28 June 2018.

Participation in the RCG6: see attached list of participants

Preparation of the conference of regional Commission (chairing by Monique Eloit, DG OIE)
After an introduction by Monique Eloit, François Caya goes through the agenda of the conference, step by step. 4 proposals of regional collaborating centres will be made (2 from UK, 1 from FR, 1 consortium from IT and ES). A discussion should take place on the technical items (added value of the questionnaires, length and usefulness of recommendations). Thursday will be dedicated to a tour in Georgia.

Ideas and propositions are made with regards to the composition of the Conference committee (chairperson, vice-chair person and rapporteur general), and chairpersons and rapporteurs of the different sessions (technical items I and II, report on the animal health situation). Please refer to annex 1.

Reflexion of the regional core group (chairing by Maris Balodis, president of the regional commission for Europe, Monique Eloit attending as an observer)
Maris Balodis introduces the reflexion on options regarding the strategic needs of the Europe region. The purpose of this reflexion is to feed the preparation of the OIE 7th strategic plan and the regional workplan 2020. The discussion subsequently focuses on the following items.

- **Standard setting procedures**: the delegates are having a hard time coping with the very large number of chapters submitted for revision each year; could that be prioritized, or a more limited number of chapters put on the table? DG OIE suggests, before starting to amend a chapter, to adjust to a particular situation and assess whether the situation could be addressed through guidelines for example, which means better identifying what should be addressed in the standard vs a guideline. One could also reflect on the timeline: the 2 years cycle usually implemented may sometime be too short and could be extended.

- **Implementation of standards**: it is critical that the standards be respected by the OIE members. That is why the RCG strongly supports the observatory initiative of the OIE.
  DG OIE mentions the activities deployed by the OIE to promote the standards (workshops, dialogue with ministers, PVS pathways…), and reminds the RCG that the OIE does not have a mandate to enforce the standards, it is ultimately the responsibility of the countries. Nevertheless, the pressure that the OIE can put on the members can also be used internally by the delegate to advocate for the application of the standards.

- **Budget** / linked to the future regional priorities and, in particular, to the capacity of the RR and SRR to deal with the regional work programme. Funding gaps should be identified in order to find solutions, while better use should be made of the expertise some our regional organisations already have (e.g. e-learning capacity of EuFMD). The approach used to launch and develop the OIE welfare platform could serve as an example. The activities of the GF-TADs should be expanded, in particular to rabies (and maybe PPR)?
  OIE DG can fully agree and explains that she would like to develop an estimated pluriannual budget, together with the draft of the next strategic plan, in order to clarify the needs. The OIE would also like to make a better use of the resources and skills of the OIE collaborating centres and reference laboratories (staring with a pilot project with regards to the 5 collaborating centres on veterinary education).
  The EC raises the issue of the capacity of the OIE to find some resources to match the 50% cofinancing tabled by the EC, in order to avoid that a particular project is cancelled (as happened recently regarding an AW activity).
  Regarding the GF-TADs, the next meeting of the global steering committee will discuss the outcomes of the last evaluation of the GF-TADs. The OIE DG will make sure that the governance of the GF-TADs in the Europe region remains unchanged.

- **PVS pathway**: should a permanent structure be created?
  OIE DG reminds that the activity has been developed over the last 10 to 12 years. Yet some members are still reluctant to consider the PVS pathway as a core activity of the OIE and therefore funded by the regular budget. It should be recognised that the PVS pathway is fully part of the mandate of the OIE, also in the light of the fact that WHO developed a similar tool to monitor the implementation of the International Health Regulation.

Next meeting of the Regional Core Group

Switzerland confirmed that the next meeting of the RCG will be organised on 17 and 18 December in Bern, Switzerland.

Acknowledgements

The Members and Secretariat of the Regional Core Group would like to address their deep thanks to the government of Georgia for their warm hospitality.

Annex 1
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

FUNCTION	NAME	PROPOSED BY:
Chairperson	Dr Lasha Avaliani, OIE Delegate of Georgia	Dr Maris Balodis, OIE Delegate of Latvia
		Dr Tursyn Kabduldanov, OIE Delegate of Kazakhstan
Vice-Chairperson	Dr Ulrich Herzog, OIE Delegate of Austria	Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Delegate of Serbia
		Dr Ivan Smilhin, OIE Delegate of Belarus
Rapporteur General	Dr Taina Aaltonen, OIE Delegate of Finland	Dr Andrii Zhuk, OIE Delegate of Ukraine
		Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, OIE Delegate of Germany

SESSION CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEURS

ITEMS	CHAIRPERSON	PROPOSED BY:	RAPPORTEUR	PROPOSED BY:
Technical Item I Application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels, Dr Silvia Bellini,	Dr Tursyn Kabduldanov (Kazakhstan)	Mr Abrar Akbarov (Uzbekistan)	Dr Ingrid Eilertz (Sweden)	Dr Sigurborg Daðadóttir (Iceland)
Technical Item II Importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy, Dr Yuriy Kosenko	Dr Jean-Francois Heymans (Belgium) ou Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)	Dr Jozef Bires (Slovakia)	Dr Zoran Atanasov (Macedonia, Former Yug. Rep. of)	Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)
Report on the Animal Health Situation	Dr Christianne Bruschke (The Netherlands)	Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)	Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)	Dr Christine Middlemiss (UK)