



**WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH**  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

## OIE Regional Commission for Europe

### **Eighth meeting of the Regional Core Group (RCG9) for improving countries' participation in OIE activities**

- 26 May 2019 – Paris / France -

## Report

### Summary

The RCG9 focused on the preparation of the meeting of the Regional Commission to take place the next day and other important topics related to the General Session, particularly: list of possible technical items I, candidates for the upcoming election at the OIE Council and the bureau of the region, possible common positions to be supported by the region on chapters proposed for adoption to the World Assembly of Delegates.

### Session 1 – preparing the meeting of the Regional Commission on 27 May 2019

- **Review of the agenda of the meeting of the Regional Commission, confirmation of the speakers**

Each of the items on the agenda of the meeting of the Regional Commission was mentioned; the speakers were confirmed.

- **List of Technical Items I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (November 2020)**

- **List of Technical Items I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for the 8th General Session of the OIE (May 2021)**

Both points were addressed together.

The list of possible topics identified in previous years and not yet used was reviewed; 2 topics recently suggested by the OIE Council were mentioned as well as a couple of additional suggestions from various origins. Please refer to the document in annex for the complete list of possible topics.

It was decided to consolidate in 1 single document these possible topics and prepare a PPT to be presented by Christianne Brusckke at the meeting of the Regional Commission.

- **Update on a new OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare: proposed position**

The new consortium collaborating center on animal welfare will be jointly presented by Italy and Sweden. Unanimous support is expected.

- **Election of one member of the OIE council representing the OIE region Europe**

Nicolai Vlasov, delegate of Russia, is so far the only one running for the position. The president will inform the Regional Commission and ask if there is any other proposal.

- **Election at the Bureau of the Regional Commission – one vice-president and one secretary general**

Maris Balodis reminded the RCG that the bureau was last elected in 2018. For the sake of stability and continuity, the proposal of the bureau is to elect Vesna Dakovic (Montenegro) as vice president in replacement of the former delegate of Serbia, Budimir Plavsic, and to elect Ivan Smilgin (Belarus) as secretary general in the wake of the former delegate of Belarus, Aliaksandr Subotsin.

A new bureau and RCG will anyway all be elected in 2021.  
The proposal was supported by the RCG.

## Session 2 – Other preparations for the meeting of the Regional Commission and the General Session May 2019

- OIE chapters proposed for adoption to the World Assembly of Delegates: confirmation of the common positions to be supported by the region; agreement on speaking notes and speakers to take the floor on behalf of the 53 member-countries of Europe

### Terrestrial Code

Annex 9 – Chapter 7.Y. - Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products

- Proposed common position: support;
- Proposed speaker on behalf of the region: Switzerland

Annex 10 – Chapter 8.14. - Infection with rabies virus

- Proposed common position: support only if articles 8.14.7 and 8.14.9 remain unchanged. It appears that Africa and some Asian countries may express similar comments.
- Proposed speaker on behalf of the region: Latvia

Annex 13 – Chapter 15.1. - Infection with African swine fever virus

- Proposed common position: support;
- Proposed speaker on behalf of the region: to be identified during the meeting of the Regional Commission

### Aquatic Code

All proposed amendments up for adoption

- Proposed common position: support;
- Proposed speaker on behalf of the region: Norway (tbc)

## ANNEX

### **Suggestions of technical items I for the General Session 2021 and the Regional Conference 2020**

#### **New suggestions from the OIE HQ (no precision whether for GS or regional conference)**

- Experience of Member Countries in use of electronic certificates / contributions-considerations for OIE engagement
- Data stewardship: the use of different sources, tools and technologies for data analysis to support efficient decision-making and governance of National Veterinary Services.

#### **Technical items for General Session**

##### **a) Previously discussed**

- Livestock development as a route out of poverty: how can OIE support poverty reduction with its standards and tools?
- Electronic certification for animal and animal product trade: opportunities and challenges (similar to HQ proposal)
- Animal Health and Animal Welfare Private standards versus OIE standards
- Novel feed for animal production opportunities
- Genetic selection for AH and AW purposes - opportunities and potential risks

##### **b) New idea from the European Commission**

- Treatment requirements for products of animal origin in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Code: harmonising animal health risk mitigation recommendations to facilitate trade

#### **Technical items for the Regional Conference**

##### **a) Previously discussed**

- Vector-borne diseases: monitoring, risk assessment and control options
- The importance of the prescription of antimicrobials and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of AMR strategy
- Use of social media in communicating on animal health and welfare

##### **b) New idea from a discussion in the sideline of the meeting of the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe**

- Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices