

**First Meeting
of the
Regional Steering Committee of the FAO/OIE GF-TADs for Europe**
OIE Headquarters, Paris, 13-14 October 2005

Recommendation No. 4

Collaboration between existing networks on activities related to animal health

CONSIDERING THAT

Research activities and diagnostic developments on specific animal diseases namely foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, classical swine fever and rabies are being carried out by various institutions in Europe,

These activities are being funded by different governments and organisations,

Funding for research in animal diseases in some countries of Europe is still largely inadequate and result in major discrepancies in animal disease control measures within the Region,

The lack of a proper mechanism to coordinate these activities may result in duplication of activities and therefore the non optimal use of available resources,

The need to broaden collaboration in research is becoming increasingly important,

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The EC/OIE/FAO provide the necessary assistance to promote collaboration among existing OIE/FAO/EC Reference Laboratories through the FAO/OIE GF-TADs.
2. OIE/FAO/EC Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres increase networking to resolve technical and research gaps, improve training in animal health, dissemination of animal health information and the exchange of scientific information, pathological material and pathogens. The support of the EC and other regional and international organisations will be sought for this purpose.
3. All Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe note the essential role of Veterinary Services of Russia and other countries bordering Europe in protecting the Region from the entry of pathogens from other GF-TADs regions.
4. The EC continue to support the seminars on national capacity building, which started in Bulgaria and are expected to cover 25 OIE non-EU Member Countries within three years. A national task force should be created in each country to follow and implement the recommendations made.