

GF-TADS for Europe
Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

European Commission, Brussels 24-25 February 2010

Recommendation No. 2

Enhancing prevention and control of priority diseases in Europe

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe considers that priority diseases for Europe include foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, classical swine fever, African swine fever, rabies and peste des petits ruminants;
2. Specific recommendations have been adopted during the two previous meetings of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe on African swine fever and classical swine fever (Recom. 2 of the 2nd SC), rabies (Recom. 3 of the 1st SC) and avian influenza (Recom. 2 of the 1st SC);
3. Between January 2007 and July 2009, 12 Veterinary Services from Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe have been evaluated using the OIE-PVS Tool and 3 have undergone a PVS-Gap Analysis;
4. Since the last Steering Committee the epidemiological situations in some cases have improved due to concerted actions (e.g. rabies) or have been aggravated due to the high contagiousness of the disease and risky import and breeding practices (e.g. African swine fever);
5. There is thus a need for continuous cooperation and concerted actions between the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe and neighbouring regions for preventing and controlling diseases with major social, economical and public health impact posing a threat to European countries;
6. Although GF-TADs is intended to coordinate mechanisms, action should be implemented by the National Veterinary Services;
7. Good cooperation between FAO/OIE CMC-AH and the EU Veterinary Emergency Team has been a key to successful actions;
8. The continued use of Rinderpest vaccine in some countries for PPR control would impede the declaration of worldwide freedom from Rinderpest;

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

1. European countries be urged to implement actions as recommended by the previous GF-TADs Steering Committee meetings and the joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference on rabies held in Paris, France, in May 2007. Countries be urged to participate to the next OIE Global Conference on rabies control at the animal source which will be organised in Korea in September 2011. Control of stray dog populations be considered as a key issue in the fight against rabies in many countries.
2. Recommendations of the Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease held in Asuncion, Paraguay, in June 2009, be implemented by European countries with the support in particular of the EUFMD Commission. Additionally, financial support should be sought to provide assistance to countries targeted in the FMD West Eurasia Roadmap, when officially endorsed, to progressively control the disease.

3. Rapid and effective action be taken to prevent further spread of African swine fever in Europe, in particular through:
 - control of movements of animals and products, especially regarding border inspections between infected and free countries or zones,
 - implementation of an efficient ban or control of swill feeding of pigs and other biosecurity measures for domestic pig farms,
 - compensation schemes for the owners of the animals slaughtered or killed for disease control purposes,

The OIE discuss at political level with Russia in order to get more information on the situation, and to prepare if possible GF-TADs missions in the countries of the region aimed at evaluating the needs and preparing cooperation actions.

4. Actions already engaged to control classical swine fever in Europe, in particular by the EU in the Western Balkans and the Black Sea subregions and also through Europe concerning wild boars, be continued and actors involved should share information and experience. The meeting organised by the EU and seven Balkan countries on 16-17 March be used to collect information on donors involvement in animal health programmes in these countries. Then a specific high level meeting be organised in spring 2010 by OIE/FAO/EU under the GF-TADS for Europe mechanism, gathering the CVOs, relevant policy makers, donors and any other key players in order to better coordinate current and future actions.
5. Support be continued for the highly pathogenic avian influenza prevention programmes, including the neighbouring countries of the Middle East and Mediterranean subregions, especially from European donors.
6. Peste des petits ruminants be targeted as a priority TAD for the region, and programmes such as those implemented in Turkey, including the registration of small ruminants herds and their movements, be implemented in other neighbouring countries. Stress be put on awareness campaigns directed at breeders and private veterinarians. Countries be strongly discouraged to use the Rinderpest vaccine for PPR control. Cattle be considered as a possible indicator of PPR infection or virus circulation where vaccination is practised.
7. Donors and technical partners continue to support Veterinary Services of the region based on OIE-PVS and PVS-Gap Analysis reports.
8. GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe maintain close relations with the GF-TADs Steering Committees for the Middle-East and Africa in particular, and collaborate as appropriate with Regional Specialised Organisations (RSOs) and Regional Support Units (RSUs) of those regions to prevent and control priority diseases for Europe present in neighbouring countries.
9. Continuous contacts be maintained between FAO/OIE CMC-AH and European Commission in order to select and provide the most relevant experts for emergency missions.