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OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
- *From Concept Note to Terms of Reference* -

Eighth meeting of the Regional Core Group (RCG8), Madrid

29-30 April 2019

Background

❑ RCG7 in Bern, December 2018 – discussion and follow up action

“Governance of the OIE AW platform: Ulrich Herzog insisted that the OIE platform is politically critical. However, there is a feeling that the RCG is not properly informed about its activities, and that the platform process is separated from the other regular activities. The participants to the recent Steering Group (SG) of the Platform (Horsham 4 December) explained that this reflection is ongoing within the SG, with the idea of amending the concept note, e.g. to have a representative of the regional commission bureau chair the SG. It was also noted that the participation of delegates in the recent meetings of the SG, particularly from the beneficiary countries, was insufficient.”



To follow up at the RCG8 in April 2019 with an update on the platform evaluation and initial drafts of the concept note and next action plan.

❑ Evaluation draft report: recommendations

Steering Group

- Ensure the '**right level of participation**' in the **SG** and events
- Make the **SG stronger** with participation of **Delegates**
- Drop in the level of engagement? Seek ways to **keep momentum**.
Suggested idea: **rotation of the SG membership**.

A few guiding considerations

- ❑ The Concept Note was drafted and adopted in 2013...
...before the actual launch of the Platform itself**

Platform not even mentioned as such in the Concept Note

- ❑ The precise composition of the Steering Group is described in an annex to the Concept Note**

Never revised since 2014

Intermediate conclusion

Overall relevance of the CN, not challenged by the Evaluation

The CN should remain the founding document for the governance of the Platform

Only some relevant parts of the CN should be adjusted

Need to design a robust but flexible mechanism to:

- Reinforce the link between the SG and the Regional Commission / RCG**
- Adjust the composition of the SG as relevant**

Terms of Reference of the OIE Platform



Terms of reference of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Draft 1 – 12/04/2019

CONSIDERING

1. That animal welfare, including the key component animal health, is the subject of OIE standards and guidelines,
2. That the Technical item of the 25th Regional Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe held in Germany on 17-21 September 2012 was: «Regional steps towards common Animal Welfare approach in Europe»,
3. The [Concept Note](#) "Proposed action to support OIE Member Countries in Eastern Europe in the implementation of the OIE standards on animal health and welfare", which was drafted and eventually officially endorsed in May 2013,
4. The subsequent launch of the "OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe" (further referred to as "the Platform"), the full implementation of its action plan 2014-2016 and the ongoing implementation of the second action plan 2017-2019.]
5. The continuous need to improve the efficiency of veterinary services in the countries of Eastern Europe particularly with respect to the effective implementation of the OIE standards and guidelines on animal welfare, including the key component animal health,
6. The opinion expressed by the Regional Core Group during the seventh meeting in Bern, 17-18 December 2018 and the conclusions of the external evaluation of the Platform conducted in January-April 2019,

The Terms of Reference of the OIE Platform are established as follows.

Objectives of the Platform

The goal of the Platform is to assist OIE Member Countries in Eastern Europe to progressively comply with OIE standards on animal welfare and animal health.

Key elements of the activities of the Platform are, as appropriate:

- Development and adoption of legislation in participating member countries to enable effective implementation of OIE animal standards on welfare and, as appropriate, animal health;
- Capacity building on animal welfare of participating member countries through workshops, seminars and training programmes;
- Improvement of awareness of the value of implementation of OIE standards and guidelines on animal welfare through engagement and partnership with stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and industry associations;
- Offering a platform for dialogue and exchange on best practices in animal welfare and, as appropriate, animal health and veterinary public health; for information and knowledge; and to enhance scientific cooperation.

Governance and arrangements of the Platform

The Platform is governed by the Steering Group, under the supervision of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

The Secretariat of the Steering Group is ensured by the OIE sub-Regional Representation in Brussels.

Responsibilities of the Steering Group

The Steering Group is tasked with developing the action plan of the Platform, monitoring the financial resources and actual implementation of the action plan, collecting information and providing recommendations on the activities.

Composition of the Steering Group

- (i) a member of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, chair of the Steering Group,
- (ii) a representative of the OIE headquarters,
- (iii) representatives of three member-Countries not part of the European Economic Area¹,
- (iv) representatives of two member-Countries of the European Economic Area¹,
- (v) a representative of the European Commission / DG SANTE,
- (vi) a representative of an OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre in the region,
- (vii) representatives of donor member-Countries and organisations.
- (viii) representatives of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow and the sub-Regional Representations for Central Asia and in Brussels,

The Steering Group may invite, on an ad hoc basis as needs arise, other interested parties notably from the civil society, including the industry and NGOs.

Functioning of the Steering Group

The Steering Group meets at least every six months, under the chairmanship of a member of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. Meetings are convened by the Chair and take place in different places in Europe on a rotational basis.

Resources of the Platform

The OIE seeks resources for the development and implementation of the action plan, and the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund manages the resources obtained.

¹ One the representatives of the member Countries considered under (iii) and (iv) should be the member of member of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe chairing the Steering Group. Except for the Chair of the Steering Group, the representatives of the member Countries considered under (iii) and (iv) may be either the OIE National Delegate or the nominated national Focal Point for Animal Welfare.

Main features

Recitals... including a reference to the Concept Note (not repealed)

Objectives of the Platform

Governance and arrangements of the Platform

- Steering Group under supervision of the OIE Regional Commission
- Secretariat ensured by the OIE SRR Brussels

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Important additional features / comments

The member of the bureau is not an additional member...

... but should be 1 of the 5 represented member countries (2 from the EEE countries, 3 from non EEE countries)

But the delegate is expected to chair in person, not the NFP

Proposed operational procedures (implicit, not detailed)

The RCG designates, by ways of a Recommendation of the RCG, the member of the Bureau who will chair the SG.

The SG itself designates, by ways of a Recommendation of the SG, the detailed composition of the rest of the SG.

CONCLUSION

Addresses the concern expressed in RCG7

Allows for addressing – at least partially – the recommendations of the draft Evaluation report

Steering Group

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