

32nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe
21-25 September 2026, Riga, Latvia

Recommendation 1

**Harmonisation and effectiveness of biosecurity measures for
emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases.**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Biosecurity is a key component of disease prevention and control and contributes to animal health and welfare, public health, sustainable livestock production, food security and safe trade;
2. Members in the Europe region continue to face an increasing risk of emerging and re-emerging Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs), such as Foot and mouth disease (FMD), Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Sheep pox and goat pox (SGP), African swine fever (ASF), High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) and Lumpy skin disease (LSD). These diseases have a significant sanitary and economic impact, as well as consequences for international trade. This highlights the importance of effective and sustainable biosecurity throughout relevant animal production along the value chains;
3. WOAHA international standards, including the newly adopted Chapter 4.20 on Biosecurity of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, provide a framework for the development and implementation of effective biosecurity, while Veterinary Services have an important responsibility in supporting Members' compliance with WOAHA standards;
4. The 2026 survey indicates that responding Members have established legal frameworks for biosecurity and that most have biosecurity plans and mechanisms for their implementation, while important challenges remain regarding effective and sustainable implementation, particularly in relation to financing, human resources, and expertise;
5. Effective biosecurity requires strong Veterinary Services risk-based approaches and sustained engagement and collaboration among relevant public and private stakeholders related to farmed, domestic and wildlife animals.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members strengthen the effective and sustainable implementation of biosecurity measures, in accordance with relevant WOAHA international standards, including Chapter 4.20 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, through appropriate governance, adequate capacities and sustainable arrangements for human, technical and financial resources required for implementation, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities of Veterinary Services and relevant public and private stakeholders;

2. WOAHA supports Members in the implementation of relevant international standards on biosecurity, including the newly adopted Chapter 4.20 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, through appropriate guidance, capacity building activities - from performance assessment of Veterinary Services to targeted support and competency-based training - and the dissemination of relevant technical resources;
3. Members promote risk-based biosecurity plans and measures including tools such as audits and compliance assessments, taking into account the main pathways for disease introduction and spread. These plans must include as appropriate, commercial, non-commercial and backyard holdings, animal movements and transport, markets and slaughterhouses, and interfaces between domestic animals and wildlife;
4. Members strengthen engagement and shared responsibility among animal keepers, farmers, the veterinary workforce, including private veterinarians and other relevant stakeholders in implementing biosecurity measures, including through targeted awareness and training and through appropriate public-private collaboration;
5. Members regularly assess the implementation and effectiveness of biosecurity measures and use the results to identify gaps, target corrective actions and continuously improve biosecurity plans and programmes, and sustainable laboratories, making appropriate use of digital tools and other monitoring approaches where relevant;
6. WOAHA, through its Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and relevant regional mechanisms, facilitates regular follow up and monitoring of the implementation of biosecurity, the exchange of experiences and good practices among Members on the implementation of this recommendation.