

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

Recommendation 2

Emergency preparedness and response to peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) in the region

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) are important transboundary animal diseases affecting small ruminants, with consequences for animal health, livelihoods and international trade, and their recent emergence and continued circulation demonstrate that the Europe Region remains at risk;
2. Recent introductions of PPR and SGP indicate that the risk of introduction is not limited to the proximity to areas where the diseases are circulating, but may also be associated with international trade links and other legal/illegal long-distance animal movements;
3. The epidemiological situation of PPR and SGP in affected areas indicates a continued risk of further spread or reintroduction of these diseases through legal or illegal animal movements, indirect transmission, including through vehicles, fomites, and people. In addition, the absence or non-specific clinical manifestation of both diseases may make surveillance and early detection challenging;
4. Effective preparedness and response require capable and adequately resourced Veterinary Services, effective surveillance and diagnostic capacity, up-to-date contingency planning, appropriate biosecurity and movement controls, and timely implementation of control and eradication measures in accordance with relevant WOA international standards;
5. Timely notification and transparent information sharing, together with cross-border and regional cooperation, including through mechanisms such as the GF-TADs framework, are essential for the prevention, early detection, control and eradication of regional priority transboundary animal diseases such as PPR and SGP;
6. The FAO – WOA Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR provides the framework for coordinated actions towards 2030;
7. Sustained political commitment and the effective implementation of and adherence to appropriate control measures are needed to prevent further spread, supported by timely action at national level.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members strengthen preparedness and operational readiness for PPR and SGP by maintaining and regularly reviewing contingency plans, in accordance with relevant WOAHP international standards and taking into account lessons learned from recent outbreaks; ensuring that the human, technical and financial capacities necessary to support prevention, surveillance, early detection and control are available; and regularly testing preparedness through simulation exercises and training involving Veterinary Services, laboratories and other relevant stakeholders;
2. Members strengthen risk-based surveillance for PPR and SGP to support early detection, reporting and containment of outbreaks, taking into account the possibility of subclinical infection, the evolving epidemiological situation, animal movement patterns, epidemiological links and other relevant risk factors;
3. Members ensure that suspected cases and outbreaks are promptly investigated, including through appropriate clinical examination and laboratory testing, and that comprehensive epidemiological investigations are conducted to identify sources of infection, transmission routes and risk factors;
4. Members maintain adequate diagnostic capacity for the timely detection and confirmation of PPR and SGP and strengthen, as appropriate, collaboration with WOAHP Reference Laboratories including sharing samples for advanced diagnostics, sequencing and molecular epidemiology, to support epidemiological investigations and inform control measures; and, where appropriate, facilitate the timely generation and sharing of virus genetic sequence through relevant national and international platforms to support disease surveillance, risk assessment, and the development of effective prevention and control measures;
5. Members ensure timely notification to WOAHP through WAHIS to support transparency and coordinated responses;
6. Members consider, where appropriate, the development and implementation of vaccination strategies based on the epidemiological situation and risk assessment and in accordance with relevant WOAHP international standards. In that case Members need to ensure adequate vaccination coverage and appropriate post-vaccination monitoring. In addition, Members should ensure adequate quality control of vaccines, and could consider cross-border coordinated vaccination campaigns;
7. Members ensure that sanitary measures applicable to the international trade of animals and their products are in accordance with relevant WOAHP international standards, taking into account the disease situation, vaccination status and commodities concerned;
8. Members actively participate in the standard-setting process by contributing comments on the relevant Code Chapters, based on their own experiences with both diseases;
9. Members strengthen awareness and communication activities, in consultation with farmers, veterinarians, traders and all other relevant stakeholders, and promote the development and joint implementation of actions to improve disease recognition, reporting, biosecurity, prevention, preparedness and response including compensation schemes;
10. Members strengthen cross-border cooperation and timely exchange of relevant epidemiological information, apply appropriate controls to animal movements, traders, transport vehicles and cross-border activities to reduce the risk of disease introduction and spread;

11. WOAHA, in collaboration with relevant partners and through existing regional mechanisms, including GF-TADs where appropriate, support Members in strengthening preparedness and response to PPR and SGP by facilitating technical cooperation, stakeholder engagement, access to relevant expertise and tools, peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of experiences and good practices;
12. WOAHA, in collaboration with relevant partners, support, for PPR, the objectives of the FAO-WOAH Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR; contribute to addressing identified knowledge and research gaps relevant to the prevention and control of PPR and SGP; and review progress in the implementation of this Recommendation over the next two years.