

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**
St Paul's Bay (Malta), 24 - 27 September 1996

Recommendation No. 1

**Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in animals and humans:
epidemiology, pathogenesis and research aspects**

CONSIDERING THAT

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) can be controlled by excluding ruminant-derived meat-and-bone-meal from cattle feeds; other possible means of transmission of the agent, for example maternally and horizontally, appear to be insufficient to sustain an endemic infection of cattle,

BSE has been experimentally transmitted to sheep by the oral route: feline spongiform encephalopathy and spongiform encephalopathy of several species of animals kept in zoos are believed to be the result of feed-borne exposure to BSE before preventive measures were introduced,

It is possible that cases of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) may be related to BSE, but a causative link has not been established,

Surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) in animals, particularly for BSE and scrapie, is important to international trade,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Animal Health Code Commission provide detailed guidance on the effective and continuous surveillance and monitoring necessary for countries to be considered free from BSE in accordance with Article 3.2.13.2 of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*.

Appendix IV (contd.)

Competent authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

2. Ensure the implementation of Chapter 3.2.13 of the OIE *International Animal Health Code*, particularly with regard to effective and continuous surveillance and monitoring for BSE.
3. Obtain better estimates of the occurrence of animal TSEs by implementing specific surveillance systems.
4. Intensify research into the epidemiology of scrapie and other TSEs with the objective of improving methods for the control and eradication of these diseases. Such research should fully exploit recent technical advances, for example, *PrP* gene sequencing.
5. Support research aimed at developing methods for the early diagnosis of TSE infection in live animals.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
on 27 September 1996 during its 17th Conference)

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**
St. Paul's Bay (Malta), 24 - 27 September 1996

Recommendation No. 2

Surveillance and Control of Fish Diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

Fish diseases are some of the most important factors that cause economic losses and thus considerably reduce profitability in the fish farming industry,

Reporting of aquatic animal diseases is crucial for an effective surveillance at international and regional level, as stated by the International Committee of the OIE in May 1995 (Resolution No. XVI),

Control of fish diseases is an important topic for the Veterinary Services to reduce the economic significance of such diseases,

The level of diseases/infectious agents in fish can be controlled and reduced by the use of available knowledge and technology as well as basic concepts for disease control and husbandry,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. An effective legislative framework be established in Member Countries and the effort of the Veterinary Services be increased in the field of fish diseases.
2. Efforts be made to control socio and/or economically important diseases in fish as well as those that may affect humans by applying health control on a regular basis. Special attention should be directed towards optimal environmental conditions, good management practice, hygiene, disease control by means of vaccination programmes if applicable, control programmes for parasites and to the use of pharmaceuticals.

Appendix V (contd.)

3. Epidemiological data on fish diseases be collected by competent authorities in Member Countries and this information be fully reported by the OIE Delegates, both to the OIE and concerned Member Countries.
4. Fish farmers be informed and trained regarding the basic principles of hygiene, good management practices and other specific measures to be taken in order to control fish diseases.
5. Research on diagnostic methods, prevention and control of fish diseases be developed or strengthened, and the most significant results of this research be published by the OIE.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
on 27 September 1996 during its 17th Conference)

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**
St. Paul's Bay (Malta), 24 - 27 September 1996

Recommendation No. 3

Sanitary measures for international horse events

CONSIDERING THAT

Competition horses are accompanied by their passports, thus providing clear identification and facilitating control,

International horse events are under strict and permanent veterinary control,

Member Countries which organise international events must determine the appropriate level of health protection for their territory when deciding which horses will be authorised to be imported on a temporary basis,

When determining this level, the objective of Member Countries should be to allow the participation of the largest possible number of horses, in the spirit of the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,

The OIE *International Animal Health Code* provides countries organising such events with a range of possible sanitary measures aimed at avoiding the temporary importation of horses that could endanger the health status of the country,

These possibilities include in particular Article 3.4.6.2 on piroplasmiasis and Article 3.4.10.3 on equine viral arteritis for uncastrated males, of the *International Animal Health Code*,

Appendix VI (contd.)

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries establishing sanitary measures for international horse events give priority to the least restrictive recommendations of the *International Animal Health Code* in order to facilitate the participation of the largest possible number of horses.
2. Such countries take the necessary preventive measures at the site of the event to ensure the participation of the largest possible number of horses, taking into account the veterinary control and supervision which can be carried out in practice.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
on 27 September 1996 during its 17th Conference)