



**29th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission  
for Europe**

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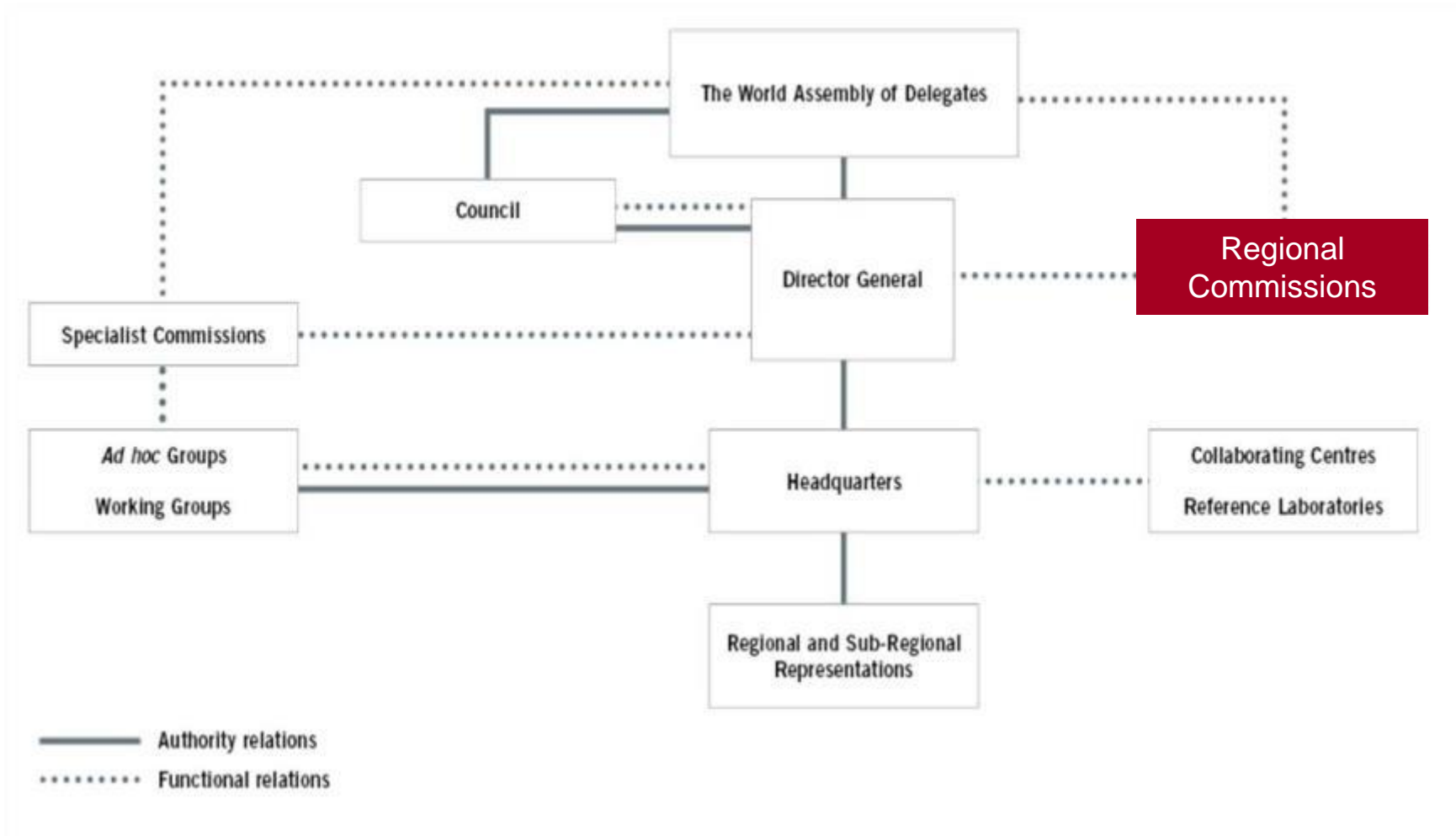
President of The Regional Commission for Europe  
OIE Delegate and CVO of Latvia

**The role of the OIE Regional Commission in  
emergency situations: lessons learnt during the  
COVID-19 pandemic and future proposals on the  
functioning of the OIE in crisis situations**

November 9, 2020

## Institutional role of OIE Regional Commissions

# Governance structures of the OIE



# Regional Commissions

*Address specific local issues*



- Can be fully considered as **regional institutions**
- Board composed of **4** Delegates elected for a **3-year** term of office by the World Assembly
- Regional Commission Conferences
  - Every 2 years
  - In one of the countries of the region
- **Recommendations** submitted to the World Assembly for approval and implementation by the Director General
- Meet annually during the World Assembly

# TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INTERNAL RULES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Established by decision of the World Assembly of Delegates of OIE

1. To hold Regional Conferences and
  - examine regional issues
  - produce recommendations
2. to propose adaptations of OIE decisions, programmes, strategies, policies and activities to the conditions and needs of the region;
3. to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the VS;
4. to contribute to the harmonisation of sanitary regulations relating to trade in animals and animal products between the Members;
5. to increase the contribution of livestock to national economies and participate in poverty alleviation;
6. to give an advisory opinion on the work of OIE headquarters, OIE RR and SRR when appropriate;
7. to examine applications from Members relating to the creation of new OIE Reference Centres and report their findings to the DG.

## Operational mechanisms in Europe (mandate, capacities, needs for change...)

- Regional Conferences for the purpose of studying problems relevant to the mandate of the OIE (every two years)
- The Bureau of Regional Commission
  - President
  - Two vice-presidents
  - Secretary general
- Close cooperation with OIE Regional and Subregional Representations
  - RR in Moscow
  - SRR in Brussels
  - SRR in Nursultan
- Additional supportive mechanisms in Europe:
  - *Regional Core Group (Ex-Task Force, from 2012)*
  - *Animal Welfare Steering Group for Europe (from 2012)*
  - *GF-TADs, Regional Steering Committee for Europe (from 2005)*

## Modus operandi in 2020: Covid-19

- Many OIE events postponed or canceled
- OIE Delegates/CVOs extremely engaged in national crisis management
  - *Vs not in quarantine, very involved in regular business activities (surveillance, inspections, certifications, trade issues)*
  - *Issues with lack of resources (human, material, financial)*
  - *Difficulties to implement regular programmes (animal health)*
- The Bureau of Regional Comm - additional work and flexibility
  - *Close communication with other Members*
  - *Regular cooperation with OIE RR/SRRs: several events held as video conference*
  - *Regional Core Group – fully operational*
  - *Animal Welfare Steering Group – fully operational*
  - *GF-TADs, Europe – fully operational:*
    - ♦ *ASF, LSD and Rabies SGEs – as video conferences*
  - *Coordination with partners (EC, EEC, WHO, FAO)*

# ***11<sup>th</sup> Regional Core Group meeting (April)***

## ***ZOOM***

The RCG-11 meeting has been held as a video-conference, hosted by the OIE, RCG Secretariat (Zoom tool). All RCG members participated in the meeting as well as observers from the European Commission, OIE Headquarters, OIE Sub Regional Representations in Brussels and Nur-Sultan, and OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (RCG Secretariat).

- Discussions:
  - On format of 88th General Session
  - On adoption of the OIE budget for 2021
  - On the election of Director General
  - On adoption of OIE standards
  - On recognition and re-confirmation of animal disease status for Members.



# 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Core Group meeting (April)

## ZOOM

### **Moreover:**

- *On the consolidated version of the Terms of Reference and working mechanism of the Regional Core Group of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which integrated suggestions received from several Members and observers. To be proposed for adoption by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.*
- *On the Terms of Reference of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe; Terms of Reference for the network of National Contact Points on Long-Distance Transportation; the 3rd Action Plan (2020-2022) of the Platform.*
- *On the situation concerning the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the national Veterinary Services, in terms of budget, human resources, implementation of animal disease control programmes, food supply, monitoring and laboratory testing.*

## OIE Global Priorities Priorities for Europe

# OIE Priorities (Europe)



- OIE Strategic Plans (current: 6<sup>th</sup> SP, new: 7<sup>th</sup> SP)
  - Improving animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management
  - Reinforcing trust through Transparency and communication
  - Supporting and strengthening Veterinary Services at the front lines of public health
- Success factors (excellence, management, engagement)
- Food Security and Safety
- Animal welfare
- Good Governance of Veterinary Services
- Capacity building
- Scientific excellence
- Improve animal health management worldwide
- Improve national policies
- PVS Pathway
- Communication



# Other priorities: Intersectoral collaboration

- Pre-pandemic vs Post-pandemic mindset



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



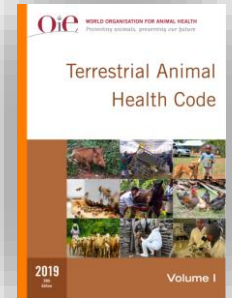
World Health  
Organization

- “One Health” Concept (Tripartite agreement)
- Veterinary Education (One-health education)
- Relationship between Animal Production and Environment (Wild life management and surveillance)
- Change management

## 2020/2021: time for big changes

# Pandemic preparedness - Multi-parallel adaptation

- Pandemic preparedness
- Collaboration, Cooperation and Communication
- Intergovernmental regulations and standards
  - OIE Intergovernmental Standards
  - WHO International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Development of national capacities for early detection and rapid response (IHR-PVS, tools, bridging workshops)
- Relationship between animal production and environment
- OIE adaptations (mandates, capacity building, re-allocation of funds))
  - Roles and responsibilities (Regional Commissions and other structures)
  - Strengthening of managing mechanisms, Increasing of resources
  - Increasing of collaboration with Members
  - Need assessment – understanding of VSs
  - Tripartite collaboration on pandemic



# Chapter 4



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**Discussion:**  
to hear ideas from Delegates,  
International organizations,  
OIE, WHO, FAO