

# Terms of reference and working mechanism of the **Regional Core Group (RCG)** of the OIE Regional Commission of Europe

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## **Establishment of the RCG**

During the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the OIE Regional in Lisbon the Member Countries discussed the revitalisation of the Task-Force, which was created at the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference in September 2012 in Fleesensee. It was decided to propose to rename it 'RCG' during the second meeting in Riga, April 2017.

Communication and coordination between the OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations and the Members in the Region will be enhanced by the establishment of this RCG.

The RCG works to support the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe in specific areas of their responsibilities as defined in the ToRs agreed annually by the Regional Commission for Europe.

## **Terms of reference**

The RCG develops a **Regional Work Plan Framework** for Europe for the period 2017-2020, in compliance with the current OIE- 6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, which has to be approved by the OIE Regional Commission of Europe

- It is its task to prepare this Plan, to support the Regional bureau and Regional- and Sub-Regional Representations for its implementation and monitor the implementation of this plan;
- The plan should cover OIE-activities and activities supported by partners such as EC, EUFMD, REMESA, and FAO;

The RCG will prepare on the basis of recommendation from Members, **a list of experts suitable for nomination** to specialist Commissions, Working Groups or ad hoc Groups and provide it to the OIE Regional Commission of Europe for final validation.

The RCG will **improve regional participation in the OIE standard setting**. It will help to determine regional common positions on key issues. The detailed process including Russian translations is presented in Annex.

The RCG will promote **active formal and informal communication** among all member countries and international/regional organisations, using a regional website with a dedicated webpage for the RCG, regional conferences, ad hoc meetings, focal points seminars, social media, etc.

## **Composition and functioning of the RCG**

The RCG represents all sub-regions of Europe, ensuring a geographical balance among the members of the region. It is recommended to have five members of non-EU Member Countries and four from EU Member Countries. RCG Members should communicate regularly with the other

OIE Member Countries in their geographical areas. The Members of the Bureau of the OIE regional Commission for Europe are de facto members of the RCG. The countries that form the RCG are selected during the meetings of the regional Commission along with the election of the Members of the Bureau (3 year mandate, renewable).

The Members of the OIE Council representing Europe should be Members of the RCG and take part in its meetings. The European Commission and the representatives of the OIE Regional and sub-Regional offices are invited to take part as observers.

The OIE sub-Regional Representation in Brussels acts as the secretariat of the RCG.

The RCG will hold two physical meetings prior to the General Session on a rotating basis, hosted by one of the RCG members. One Meeting will take place in December and a second one in April. When necessary, the RCG can meet by e-mail or teleconference to discuss and provide advice to the Regional Commission, the Regional- and Sub-Regional Representations and to the members of OIE Council of the region of Europe.

The President of the Region of Europe is the chairperson of the RCG.

The secretariat of the RCG will be in charge, upon agreement with the chair of the RCG, for organizing all administrative matters the RCG meetings and preparing the draft minutes.

The working language in the RCG meetings is English, with RU interpretation when funding is available. All relevant documents will be made available in EN and will be translated in RU as needed.

## Annex – Description of the Standard Setting Process in Europe, under the Regional Core Group

