

18th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Prague (Czech Republic), 22-25 September 1998

Recommendation No. 1

Establishing a vaccination buffer zone against foot and mouth disease in the Commonwealth of Independent States

CONSIDERING

The request of 29 October 1996 to the Director General of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) by the Delegates of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for assistance in setting up control measures against foot and mouth disease in their countries,

The progression of the disease since that date and the appearance of new types of foot and mouth disease virus in the transcaucasian region,

The alarming report made to the OIE Regional Commission for Europe by the Delegate of the Russian Federation concerning the difficulties of vaccination against foot and mouth disease in Russia and in other CIS countries,

The conclusions of a meeting held on 21 September 1998 in Prague between the Delegates of interested Member Countries and representatives of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD), the European Commission (EC) and the OIE, which focused on the risk of the spread of foot and mouth disease in European countries,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

- 1. An OIE/FAO/EC tripartite group work together with the Veterinary Services of the CIS countries to develop a common strategy for the control of FMD in the region, including a programme for a vaccination buffer zone and other control measures. The group will also follow up the progress of the programme.**
- 2. The governments of CIS countries consider the fight against foot and mouth disease as an immediate priority, and grant their Veterinary Services the financial, material and human resources necessary for this control.**
- 3. The other European governments, the European Union, the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank study the possibility of urgently granting tangible support to the CIS countries, on the request of their governments and/or of the Intergovernmental Economic Council of the CIS countries.**

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 25 September 1998)

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Recommendation No. 2

The role of international trade in animals, animal products and feed in the spread of transferable antimicrobial resistance and possible methods for control of the spread of infectious agent resistance factors

CONSIDERING

The responsibility of the Office International des Epizooties in informing governments of the existence and evolution of animal diseases and of measures to be taken to control these diseases,

That European countries have recognised that antimicrobial resistance is a major and complex problem,

The necessity to better understand the mechanisms responsible for the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, as well as the potential of antimicrobial resistant bacteria of animal origin to be transmitted to humans, causing diseases for which formerly effective antimicrobials are no longer so,

The possible role of international trade in animals, animal products and feed in the spread of transferable antimicrobial resistance and possible methods for control of the spread of infectious agents and resistance factors,

The need for more information on the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, and on existing resistance monitoring programmes in veterinary medicine, control methods and research programmes in this field in order to obtain scientifically based data for further decisions,

The possibility that in the future regulations are adopted, at a national or international level, with respect to the use of antimicrobials as veterinary drugs or feed additives,

The recommendations in the two recent World Health Organization reports on the use of antimicrobials in animal production and their potential impact on human health which recognised the necessity for collaboration with the OIE in developing a Code of practice for the use of antimicrobials in food animal production,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary authorities of the Member Countries in the region:

- **work towards the prudent use of antimicrobial products, for example by improving preventive veterinary measures in animal husbandry and aquaculture,**
- **implement appropriate antimicrobial resistance monitoring programmes for animals and animal derived products,**
- **encourage coordination between human and animal antimicrobial resistance monitoring programmes,**
- **support research programmes on antimicrobial resistance mechanisms and on the impact of different methods of using antibiotics,**

2. The OIE study the possibility of establishing an ad hoc group, taking into account the scientific work carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, which would consider as its highest priorities:

- **the development of technical guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents and on monitoring of the quantities of antibiotics used in animal husbandry;**
- **after collection of the necessary data, the harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance monitoring programmes in animals and animal derived products.**

This group will also be responsible for developing an appropriate risk assessment methodology for the potential impact on public health of antimicrobial resistance in bacteria of animal origin and for drafting a priority list of relevant bacteria and antimicrobial agents to be included in monitoring programmes.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 25 September 1998)

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Recommendation No. 3

Strategies for the control of classical swine fever, including the application of modern vaccines

CONSIDERING THAT

Classical swine fever (CSF) virus is still present on the European continent and in recent years has been reintroduced into regions previously free of the disease,

Existing procedures for the eradication and control of CSF have proved to be effective, but due to the drastic structural changes of the pig industry in many European countries, enormous losses and welfare problems could not always be avoided,

Epidemiological evidence indicates that swill feeding is the most important source of CSF virus infections in index cases, both in domestic and wild swine,

Many European wild boar populations in European countries are affected by CSF, and the disease appears to persist in these populations for prolonged periods,

CSF in wild boar constitutes a reservoir for the virus that may threaten domestic pig holdings,

Existing laboratory diagnostic tools are effective and fulfil all practical requirements but not all countries have the necessary expertise and diagnostic facilities,

Marker vaccine against CSF is not yet available,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

- 1. OIE Specialist Commissions review and update existing texts and strategies, taking into account new developments, new technologies, international trade, and bearing in mind the problems which have become apparent in recent CSF epidemics in domestic pigs and wild boars in Europe. For this purpose, the experience of those countries that have evaluated their control campaigns, notably in areas with high pig densities, should be shared and considered.**
- 2. Member Countries affected with CSF in non domestic swine improve their strategies for controlling the disease. Research should be conducted on biological, demographic, behavioural and epidemiological aspects of CSF in wild boar and on appropriate hunting methods. Scientific trials on oral vaccination should be continued. A common monitoring procedure for CSF in wild swine should be established.**
- 3. Molecular typing be conducted on all CSF virus isolates of at least primary outbreaks in order to improve epidemiological investigations.**
- 4. Member Countries in which CSF is endemic strengthen and systematically conduct control programmes.**
- 5. If the newly developed marker vaccines that enable distinction between infection and vaccine reactions in swine meet international requirements for potency and safety, notably those established by the OIE Standards Commission, their potential use in emergency situations be evaluated by the other OIE Commissions.**
- 6. Member Countries be encouraged to promote education on CSF, in particular to increase the awareness of the dangers of swill feeding and emphasise the importance of sanitary measures to prevent spread of the disease.**

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 25 September 1998)