The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 18 May 2022 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 104 participants, including Delegates and observers from 42 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 8 International or Regional Organisations:

**Members of the Commission:** Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

**International/regional organisations:** EC¹, EEC², IGC³, FAO, EuFMD⁴, ICMM⁵, ICFAW/RSPCA⁶; and Irish Equine Centre.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, accompanied by Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, and Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe who welcomed participants on behalf of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

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¹ EC : European Commission
² EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission
³ IGC: International Egg Council
⁴ EuFMD : The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
⁵ ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine
2. **Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held from 3 to 7 October 2022**

Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Catania, from 3 to 7 October 2022.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements Italy had made to start organising the conference. Dr Lecchini provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

3. **Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

“Vaccination against HPAI”

4. **Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)**

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- Pandemic preparedness (planning, capacity building, zoonotic surveillance, and coordination between competent authorities);
- Animal Welfare: implications on international trade and consumer expectations;
- Vaccination against HPAI – impact on animal health, welfare, and international trade.

5. **The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training**

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years’ challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members’ needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.
Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

6. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Technical Coordinator of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. He thanked the Delegates of Europe Region for their participation. He pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier to the notification to the OIE. He also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, had been fully implemented in their country/territory.

Dr Avendano Pérez concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

7. Statements by Regional Representatives/Directors of FAO and WHO for Europe

Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, commended the OIE for the work done in collaboration with the FAO and WHO, in the framework of the One Health Partnership at both global and regional levels, as well as the recent adjunction of UNEP. He underlined that at regional level, the FAO will continue to work with the OIE and other partners in the framework of the Single Regional Coordination Mechanism for Health, for Europe and Central Asia, established in April 2021 and chaired by the WHO this year.

Finally, he informed about the FAO Regional Conference for Europe during which Member States reaffirmed the importance of adopting and implementing the One Health approach, including the fight against antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases through national action plans.

Dr Hans Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe, highlighted the high level of cooperation with the OIE at regional level on areas of common interest, including zoonoses and pandemic preparedness. He also mentioned the fact that COVID-19 crisis reminded the world that approximately 60% of human diseases originate from animals. He concluded that no one sector can lead successfully the fight against diseases on its own, and that only a coordinated multisectoral approach under the One Health concept will ensure balanced and optimised health of people, animals and ecosystem, as well as a good preparation to current and future challenges. The ultimate goal is preventing emerging and re-emerging health threats, thus, it is of paramount importance that all concerned sectors have the needed capacities to help countries to better manage diseases threats.
Dr Kluge concluded by underlining that the OIE was a vital partner to the WHO, and that
their cooperation has been greatly improved since the creation, last year, of the Quadripartite
One Health Mechanism for Europe.

8. **Thematic kiosks during 89th General Session**

Dr Neo Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department, informed the participants about
the nine OIE virtual thematic kiosks of 89th General Session and invited the participants to
visit these kiosks, to interact with experts and learn more about specific activities relevant
to the OIE and its mission.

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**CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY**

9. **Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation**

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the
General Session, a special session was held during which Dr Arsenty Polyakov, Regional
Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo,
acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years
since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the
Organisation’s purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and
to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards
and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to
understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders
was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will
remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its
mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping
the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong
partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation’s
mission from professionals other that veterinarians as well as clearer understanding
worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several
comments from Members, including those done on behalf of 27 Member States of the
European Union, who while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the
pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed
disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some requested
for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision
to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments
and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the
89th General Session.
Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General - Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, also clarified that the proposal for the new institutional image had the support of the Council. He added that the proposal will not be put to a vote, as it does not impact the OIE Basic Texts nor does it imply a legal modification. However, and for information purposes, it will be presented through a Resolution during the General Session to ensure the support of Members.

10. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.
MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

18 May 2022

Agenda

09:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  Zoom check-in and connecting

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.  Welcome address (Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe)

10:05 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.  Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)

10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.  Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held from 3 to 7 October 2022 (Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy)

10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.  Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Ulrich Herzog)

10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.  Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Ulrich Herzog)

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.  The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)

11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Paula Caceres, Barbara Alessandrini and Bernita Giffin)

11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.  Statements by Regional Representatives/Directors of FAO and WHO for Europe (Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin and Dr Hans Kluge)

11:40 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  Thematic kiosks during 89th General Session (Dr Néo Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.  Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Mr Arsenty Polyakov, Regional Communication officer)

11:55 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.  Closing