REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 24 May 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 111 participants, including Delegates and observers from 53 Members of the Commission and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, North Macedonia (Rep. of), France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: European Commission, ICMM1, and ICFAW/RSPCA2.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held by videoconference on 9 and 10 November 2020

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, presented the main outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held from 9 to 10 November 2020, by videoconference and to which a total of 140 participants attended, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 52 Members of the region (98,1%) and representatives from 10 regional and international organisations.

1 ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine
Dr Herzog commented on the main topics from the agenda of the Conference highlighting key points including those mentioned by Dr Mark Schipp, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates as well as Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia in their respective opening remarks. He also referred to the most important aspects of the presentation of Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General, on challenges for the development and implementation of the Seventh OIE Strategic Plan in the post-pandemic world of COVID-19, and lessons learned by the OIE Regional Commission in emergency situations, presented by Dr Balodis, as well as the national experiences presented by Delegates of Austria, Uzbekistan, and the Netherlands.

He reminded Delegates that the report of the conference was available in the Regional website.

All detailed information is available in the report of the Conference.

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2022

Dr Davide Lecchini, OIE Delegate of Italy, reiterated his country’s offer to host the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2022, in Catania. Dr Lecchini suggested to organise it in late September. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in coordination with the OIE Director General.

4. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission confirmed that the technical item (with questionnaire to Members) “Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects”, initially selected for the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, will be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

5. 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, after several online consultations from April to May, including within the Regional Core Group, and with support of the electronic polling process, the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- Pandemic preparedness: Planning, capacity building, zoonotic surveillance, coordination between Competent Authorities
- One Health: Coordination, communication and cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection services on priority topics
- Animal welfare: The implications on international trade and consumer expectations
6. Application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health

Dr Christine Middlemiss, Delegate of United Kingdom, introduced Professor Jonathan Rushton from the University of Liverpool, who presented to the Regional Commission the application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for the OIE to consider a new OIE Collaborating Centre consortium for Economics of Animal Health. The consortium will be led by the Global Burden of Animal Diseases Programme at the University of Liverpool with two partners, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, and the Utrecht University.

Professor Rushton provided a brief review of the proposal and said that full details had already been shared with Delegates.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission, after electronic poll of OIE Delegates or Accredited Delegates.

7. Discussion on common positions for selected OIE Codes chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 88th General Session)

The Regional Commission agreed that a common position be put forward at the 88th General Session on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, on the following 16 items:

1) Terrestrial Animal Health Code:
   - Glossary: Europe supports the adoption of the revised glossary as presented (Speaker Montenegro).
   - Chapter 1.3 (diseases listed by the OIE): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 1.3 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
   - Chapter 3.1 (quality of veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 3.1 as presented (Speaker United Kingdom).
   - Chapter 3.2 (evaluation of veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 3.2 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
   - Chapter 3.X (introduction to recommendations on veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the new chapter 3.X as presented (Speaker Austria).
   - Chapter 4.4 (zoning and compartmentalization): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 4.4 as presented (Speaker Switzerland).
   - Chapter 10.4 (infection with avian influenza viruses): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 10.4 as presented (Speaker Georgia).
   - Chapter 14.7 (infection with peste des petits ruminants virus): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 14.7 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
   - Chapter 15.2 (infection with classical swine fever virus): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 15.2 as presented (Speaker Austria).
2) *Aquatic Animal Health Code*: Europe supports the adoption of all revised Aquatic Code chapters as presented (Speaker Montenegro), namely:

- Annex 3 – Biosecurity for aquaculture establishments.
- Annex 4 – Disease of crustaceans listed by the OIE.
- Annex 6 – Infection with Spring Viraemia of Carp virus.
- Annex 7 – Infection with Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus.
- Annex 8 – Infection with Bonamia ostreae.


Dr Roberto Balbo, OIE Subregional Representative in Brussels, briefly presented the desired impact of the third Action Plan to improve animal welfare in Europe through a series of activities on identified priority topics (slaughter, transport, stray dog population control, welfare of animals in disasters and working equids).


9. **Elections for Specialist Commissions**

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commission on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

10. **Elections of the OIE governance bodies**

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.
Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals were as follows:

**Council:**

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Christiane Bruschke (The Netherlands) (as Vice President)
- Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russian Federation)

**Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names for the different positions:

- President: Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
- Vice-President: Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
- Vice-President: Ms Vesna Dakovic (Montenegro)
- Secretary General: Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia)

**Specialist Commissions:**

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Etienne Bonbon (France) (proposed as President)
- Dr Lucio Carbajo Goni (Spain)

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland) (proposed as Vice President)
- Dr Espen Rimstad (Norway)

**Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland) (proposed as Vice President)
- Dr Donald King (UK)
Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium) (proposed as Vice President)


The Regional Commission decided on the new composition of the Animal Welfare Steering Group as follows:

- Ireland
- Israel
- Kazakhstan
- North Macedonia
- Portugal

13. Selection of the New Composition of the RCG

The Regional Commission decided on the new composition of Regional Core Group as follows:

- Belarus
- Ireland
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Uzbekistan

14. Closing

Dr Balodis thanked the Members of the Regional Commission for a productive session, their active approach in the process for selecting candidates for the election to take place on Friday and thanked the OIE for its high-level support. Prompted for closing comments, Dr Plavsic, on behalf of the OIE, congratulated Dr Balodis for his effective chairing of the meeting, and all 53 Members for a very productive start of the 88th General Session with an active participation in the Regional Commission meeting.

The meeting officially ended at 12:15 p.m. CEST.
MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 24 May 2021
(10:00 a.m. CEST)

Agenda

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

10:00 a.m.–10:05 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia)

10:05 a.m. –10:20 a.m. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held by videoconference on 9-10 November 2020 (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)

10:20 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2022 (Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy)

10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) (“Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects”) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Maris Balodis)

10:35 a.m. – 10:45 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 Maris Balodis)

10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health (Dr Christine Middlemiss, Delegate of United Kingdom, Professor Jonathan Rushton, University of Liverpool)

10:55 a.m.– 11:25 a.m. Discussion on common positions for selected OIE Codes chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 88th General Session) (Dr Maris Balodis)

11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The third Action Plan for OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe (2021-2023): proposal for adoption by the Regional Commission (Dr Roberto Balbo, OIE Subregional Representative in Brussels)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:30 a.m.– 11:40 a.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science”)

11:40 a.m.– 11:50 p.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")
11:50 a.m.– 12:35 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Maris Balodis)

12:35 p.m.– 12:45 p.m. OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, selection of the new composition of the Animal Welfare Steering Group (Dr Roberto Balbo)

12:45 p.m.– 12:55 p.m. Selection of the New Composition of the RCG (Dr Maris Balodis)

12:55 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. Closing