

23 September 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

Workshop on regional health and incl policies to support trade (AGRI45933). 8-9 September 2011, Brussels

The workshop was organized and financed by the TAIEX financial instrument of the European Commission, in close cooperation with DG SANCO, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European External Action service (EEAS).

The audience consisted of approximately 25 representatives from the competent veterinary authorities of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory and Tunisia. In addition, representatives from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (headquarters and two relevant regional offices), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) (regional office) and the EU-FMD Commission were present.

A detailed agenda and a list of participants are attached to this report. All presentations are available through the TAIEX website (<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix>). Or by the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/dyn/taix-events/library/detail_en.jsp?EventID=45933

The objective of the workshop was (1) to take stock of ongoing and planned activities in animal disease management in the Southern Mediterranean region (2) to provide an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the different veterinary services, laboratories and organisations and (3) to identify proposals that can guide future programming under the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

The workshop met all expectations. Discussions and interactions were animated and informative. Many contacts were made between participants and a follow-up was considered highly desirable in many contributions.

The following recommendations were made:

Working group on cross-border cooperation for animal health

- Agree to share all country Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) and PVS Gap Analysis Reports conducted through the OIE among countries of the region and partner organisations and enable their evaluation on a regional scale (depending on availability for transmission to Donors and Partners and of agreement of Country Delegate to the OIE). Such an exercise could greatly help programming on a risk basis.
- Exchange information on Animal Identification Systems in each country. Build systems adapted to the needs in all countries of the region, keeping in mind the goal of linking identification and health status (e.g. vaccination), especially for the animals traded.
- Use geospatial information to identify main routes of animal transport, places of border crossing, livestock markets and major watering and grazing places in the region to help focus surveillance.

- Work towards harmonisation of control strategies for Food and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), which are considered top priority;
 - Develop harmonised surveillance programmes and vaccination protocols;
 - Establish regional vaccine or antigen stocks/bank or emergency intervention stocks;
 - Organise annual regional meetings on the three diseases, following the example of the REMESA-CPC activity, or of FMD in Eastern Europe, in order to exchange and adapt the strategies.
- A regional risk assessment should be carried out for the introduction and/or spread of FMD, RVF and PPR in the Mediterranean region. This could be conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), possibly under a mandate by the European Commission (DG SANCO).

Working group on Diagnostic Capacity

- Twinning projects with laboratories have proven very successful. Support should continue.
- Sharing of country PVS and PVS Gap Analysis Reports among countries of the region and partner organisations (depending on availability for transmission to Donors and Partners and of agreement of Country Delegate to the OIE). Their evaluation on a regional scale will foster collaboration and help to create synergies and to identify specialised laboratories that could act as regional reference laboratories.
- Focal points for laboratories should be formally nominated in each country through the respective OIE Delegate. This will greatly facilitate the creation of regional laboratory networks and the dissemination of information.
- Through such a network of focal points, annual seminars can be organised on selected topics.

Working group on Trade

- The TRACES system should be implemented throughout the region for exports of products of animal origin to the EU. Applications may be made to use TRACES for imports of such products from the EU to the countries of the region as well as for intra-regional trade. A follow-up workshop dedicated to the use of TRACES in the region could be organised.
- Contingency plans should be established for priority diseases in order to minimise effects of disease outbreaks on regional trade.
- Guidelines and procedures should be developed in order to implement international SPS standards.

PVS reports already publicly available (see OIE website <http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/pvs-evaluations/oie-pvs-evaluation-reports/>). Only Syria is fully public, the others only to the partner organisations, e.g. the Commission, but on request.

Workshop on animal health and incl. regional policies to support trade

AGR 45933

organised in co-operation with
DG Health and Consumers of the European Commission,
European External Action service (EEAS)
and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Venue:

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8-9 September 2011

For more information on TAIEX assistance and to download presentations of this event, please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux>.

8 September 2011

Chair: Mr Etienne BONBON, DG SANCO

09.00 – 09.15	Registration
09.15 – 09.25	Introduction by the chair
09.25 – 09.40	TAIEX instrument of the European Commission <i>Ms. Elisabeth BEDERT - DG Enlargement , European Commission</i>
09.40 – 10.40	How to export to the European Union <i>Ms. Ines ESCUDERO SANCHEZ- DG TRADE, European Commission</i> Animal Health as a prerequisite for trade in products of animal origin and regulatory aspects for EU market access <i>Mr. Wolf MAIER - DG SANCO G7, European Commission</i>
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 11.30	EFSA risk assessment work on animal health and products of animal origin – recent examples <i>Mr. Franck BERTHE -Animal Health and Welfare Unit, EFSA</i>
11.30 - 12.00	EFSA risk assessment work on animal welfare and scientific cooperation <i>Mr. Franck BERTHE -Animal Health and Welfare Unit, EFSA</i>
12.00 – 12.45	Animal identification and certification systems (TRACES) to support animal health control <i>Mr. Kaido KROON - SANCO G2, European Commission</i>
12.45 – 13.00	Questions and brief discussion
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.45	Stocktaking of ongoing and planned activities State of works with OIE PVS Pathway, next steps. Other activities in animal health control <i>Dr Alain DEHOVE - OIE Paris</i>
14.45 – 15.15	Activities in animal health control (Cross-border cooperation, REMESA) <i>Prof Mohammed BENGOUIMI, Sub-regional Office for North Africa, FAO</i>
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.15	Ongoing and planned activities: EuFMD Commission and support for FMD control in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean region <i>Mr. Keith SUMPTION, Secretary, EUFMD Commission, FAO</i>
16.40 – 17.00	Presentation of TWINNING instrument: ongoing & planned

	activities <i>Ms. Maria ROCA DEL MAR -DG DEVCO, European Commission</i>
17.00– 17.30	Questions and brief discussion preparing the working groups for day 2
17.30	End of day 1

9 September 2011

Chair: Mr Finn SHEYE, EFSA

08.30 - 08.45	Registration
08.45 -09.00	Introduction day 2 by chair
09.00 – 11.00	<p>Discussion Parallel Working groups</p> <p>1/ Cross border cooperation for animal health – (PPR and Food and mouth disease) –Chair Mohammed Bengoumi FAO Regional Office Tunis.</p> <p>2/ Diagnostic capacity in the region – current situation and opportunities for regional cooperation – Chair Moritz Klemm, Sanco G2</p> <p>3/ Trade – current situation import / export of live animals and animal products, opportunities and certification – Chair Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative.</p> <p><i>The discussion should identify priorities to further support domestic production, export and import.</i></p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.00	Presentation to the plenary of working groups - 10 min each
12.00 – 12.45	<p>Panel Discussion with inclusion of the audience</p> <p>Panel: SANCO, EFSA, OIE, FAO</p> <p>Identification of priorities</p>
12.45 – 13.00	<p>Final Conclusions</p> <p>by DG SANCO</p>
13.00	End of the workshop

Results of the EFSA evaluation questionnaire:

All 24 participants from the 8 countries answered to the survey. Hotel and meeting venue were found being excellent by 64% and good by 32% of the participants. Written material was found excellent by 32% and good by 48%. Presentation skills of the speakers were found to be excellent or very good of 96% of the participants. The content of the speeches and the responsiveness to questions were found being excellent or very good by 95%. There was 91% finding the presentations being on the right level. 82% of participants felt they had enough opportunity to express their opinion. 78% found the interpretation excellent or very good while 22% found it good. 72% of the participants considered that this workshop was an excellent or very good opportunity for improving their knowledge on this topic and 74% found the overall value excellent or very high.

Comments to the workshop:

- More time and especially more time for the discussions.
- Fewer speeches for 1.5 days and more discussion and working groups.
- Presentations should be sent to the participants before the workshop or at least be printed out at the workshop.
- Meeting room arranged in a better way as it was sometime not possible to see the speaker or the presentations.
- Transport to/from airport should be included.
- Need of a follow-up due to many action points.
- Info on who does what at DG DEVCO and a contact person per topic.

Additional topics to be addressed in future workshop exchange.

- Animal identifications
- Building a notification system to be used by regions.
- Livestock health and production in relation to climate change.
- Visit to the European Commission.
- Veterinary legislation.
- More on physical examinations and a visit to an excellent slaughterhouse.
- Certification and registration of animals.
- More information on preparation and initiation of twinning projects.

Finn Sheye
Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood Policy Coordinator
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The European Food Safety Authority