



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**First Meeting
of the
Regional Steering Committee of the FAO/OIE GF-TADs for Europe**
OIE Headquarters, Paris, 13-14 October 2005

Recommendation No. 1

**Support of Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
to the projects identified under the FAO/OIE GF-TADs**

CONSIDERING THAT

Although the major transboundary animal diseases of epidemic/economic importance do not occur in most of Europe but may pose an important threat to the continent due to the transboundary nature of these diseases..

The Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe considers that priority diseases for Europe include foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, classical swine fever, rabies and peste des petits ruminants,

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

European countries and donors including the EC support the FAO/OIE GF-TADs objectives in helping non-European Regional Support Units (RSUs) to be established in Northern Africa, Middle East and Central Asia through the relevant GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees of the regions concerned, to better identify primary endemic areas where pathogens have found an ecological niche, through laboratory and epidemiological networks established under the guidance of the Global and relevant Regional GF-TADs Steering Committees.

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Recommendation No. 2

The role of wildlife in the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

CONSIDERING THAT

The current outbreaks of avian influenza caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus in South East Asia are responsible for considerable social and economic consequences, and are threatening the basic livelihoods of millions of people in the region,

The disease is currently spreading to other regions including Southern Europe,

The HPAI virus might undergo reassortment or adaptive mutation and lead to a human pandemic,

The occurrence of the disease in poultry has sometimes been linked to infections in wild birds,

The OIE mission comprising veterinary epidemiologists, laboratory specialists, ornithologists and wildlife experts that visited Siberia to carry out investigations on the possible link between infection of wild birds and the occurrence of the disease in poultry, has indicated that there is some circumstantial evidence to indicate a role of wildlife,

The role of wildlife in the spread of the virus is now more evident in the light of the new information coming from Turkey pointing out the close resemblance between the viruses isolated from wild birds in Novosibirsk in Russia and Lake Quichai in the People's Republic of China and that isolated from domestic poultry in Turkey, thus indicating the need for more in-depth research and data analysis,

The OIE has already programmed three other expert missions to Russia with defined terms of reference which include recommendations for the laboratory at Vladimir to comply with OIE Reference Laboratory standards. This project would benefit from financial support from the EC and technical expertise from OIE through the OIE/FAO OFFLU network,

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries in which the infection is likely to be introduced by wild birds, carry out active surveillance and biosecurity measures according to risk assessments and monitor HPAI infection in domestic poultry and wild birds. These countries would include those that lie on the migratory routes of wild birds and where wild birds coming from various regions overwinter, breed or moult.
2. Countries at risk collaborate with the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise (OFFLU) in sharing scientific information and virus isolates to enable the genetic characterisations of viruses in order to trace their origin.
3. All countries prepare and update, if necessary, their emergency management and risk communication plans as new scientific information on the role of wild birds in the dissemination of infection becomes available.
4. OIE/FAO liaise with international donors to provide assistance to countries at risk to ensure that the expertise is available for the identification of virus strains locally or in OIE/FAO Reference laboratories. The support to enable the Vladimir laboratory to become an OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza will be considered as a top priority.

5. Early detection of disease, rapid response after disease suspicions and incursions, availability of an efficient 'farmers compensation scheme' be considered crucial issues in the control of avian influenza.
6. Generic actions on compliance with OIE international standards on quality of Veterinary Services be also considered as a priority in order to control the world-wide crisis of avian influenza. This position will be presented during the International Conference on avian influenza, which will be held from 7 to 9 November 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland.
7. The present recommendation be communicated to other GF-TADs Steering Committees for strong consideration, particularly as regards monitoring of HPAI virus in migratory birds.

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Recommendation No. 3

Prevention, control and eradication of rabies in Europe

CONSIDERING THAT

During the past few years, Europe has witnessed the re-emergence of rabies in some countries,

The rabies virus is capable of affecting many wildlife species and maintaining a permanent viral circulation,

New scientific and technological knowledge for the prevention and detection of rabies could contribute to the development of safer and more efficacious vaccines, diagnostic tests and preventive and control methods,

Some countries in Europe urgently need assistance to control the disease and prevent the spread to unaffected countries,

The OIE, FAO, WHO and the EC have recognised the important threat posed by the presence of rabies in Europe,

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries of the region implement the recommendations of the OIE First international Conference on "Rabies in Europe" held in Kiev, Ukraine from 15 to 18 June 2005
2. The EC and other bilateral donors provide through the FAO/OIE GF-TADs, necessary technical assistance for affected countries of the Region to control the disease in animals.

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Recommendation No. 4

Collaboration between existing networks on activities related to animal health

CONSIDERING THAT

Research activities and diagnostic developments on specific animal diseases namely foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, classical swine fever and rabies are being carried out by various institutions in Europe,

These activities are being funded by different governments and organisations,

Funding for research in animal diseases in some countries of Europe is still largely inadequate and result in major discrepancies in animal disease control measures within the Region,

The lack of a proper mechanism to coordinate these activities may result in duplication of activities and therefore the non optimal use of available resources,

The need to broaden collaboration in research is becoming increasingly important,

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The EC/OIE/FAO provide the necessary assistance to promote collaboration among existing OIE/FAO/EC Reference Laboratories through the FAO/OIE GF-TADs.
2. OIE/FAO/EC Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres increase networking to resolve technical and research gaps, improve training in animal health, dissemination of animal health information and the exchange of scientific information, pathological material and pathogens. The support of the EC and other regional and international organisations will be sought for this purpose.
3. All Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe note the essential role of Veterinary Services of Russia and other countries bordering Europe in protecting the Region from the entry of pathogens from other GF-TADs regions.
4. The EC continue to support the seminars on national capacity building, which started in Bulgaria and are expected to cover 25 OIE non-EU Member Countries within three years. A national task force should be created in each country to follow and implement the recommendations made.