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Report

93TH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE EUFMD COMMISSION

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Please note the Appendices are available online and as a separate document on the EuFMD website.

93rd Executive Committee EuFMD

21-22 March Mödling, Austria

Agenda

Tuesday 21 st March 2017			
13.30	1	Welcome & Adoption of the Agenda	J-L Angot
	2	Report on EuFMD activities since the 92 nd Session	EuFMD Secretary
	3	FMD situation - Global and Regional	D. King, WRL
		Neighbourhood FMD risk monitoring activities: the REMESA region	EuFMD
Break			
	4	Preparation of the Executive Committee Report to the General Session – success stories and lessons learnt	
		Pillar I report: Update: Training, Balkans, Thrace; Overview and progress against indicators; Success stories and lessons learnt (discussion)	M. Hovari
	5	Pillar I items for the General Session Item on the private sector role in emergency management Item on confidence in passive surveillance	
	6	Pillar I future workplan: areas for emphasis and de-emphasis and financial implications (discussion)	Group discussion.
Wednesday 22 nd March 2017			
8.30	7	Preparation of the Executive Committee Report to the General Session – success stories and lessons learnt	EuFMD Secretary
		Pillar II report: - update on activities in Turkey; -overview and progress against indicators; - success stories and lessons learnt (discussion)	N. Bulut K Sumption
	8	Pillar II items for the General Session: - Training needs assessment and proposed actions	EuFMD
	9	Pillar II: future workplan: areas for emphasis and de-emphasis and financial implications (discussion)	Group discussion
	10	Preparation of the Executive Committee Report to the General Session – success stories and lessons learnt : Pillar III	
		Pillar III: Update from GF-TADS partners; overview and progress against indicators; success stories and lessons learnt	FAO/OIE; K Sumption; Group discussion
	11	Pillar III: future workplan: areas for emphasis and de-emphasis and financial implications	Group discussion
Break			
	12	Standing Technical Committee (STC) Report	E. Ryan
	13	Proposal for establishing a Special Committee on Biorisk Management (Biocontainment)	
	14	Financial and Administrative Reports - Administrative Fund, and future budget/Emergency and Training Fund/EC Fund	
	15	Evaluation of the EC Programme, Phase IV	
13.00 Lunch break			
1400	16	Any other business	

Report of the 93rd Session of the Executive Committee

Opening

The Session was formally opened by Dr Jean-Luc Angot, President of the EuFMD, who thanked all the participants as well as AGES, who were kindly hosting the meeting. He gave the floor to the Director of Ages, Professor Friedrich Schmoll who presented a brief history of the laboratory at Mödling and the current developments in AGES.

The Session was Chaired by Dr Jean-Luc Angot, President of the Commission, and attended by all of the three elected officers and three of the six members. Apologies were received from Dr Nenad Petrovic, Serbia, and Dr Gediminas Pridotkas, Lithuania.

Officers of the Commission present were: Dr Jean-Luc Angot (JLA, France, President) Dr Christianne Brusckke (CB, The Netherlands, Vice President) and Dr Ulrich Herzog (UH, Austria, Vice-President). Members of the **Executive Committee** present were Dr Spiros Doudounakis (SD, Greece), Dr Martin Blake (MB, Ireland), Dr Lajos Bogнар (LB, Hungary), and Dr Veli Gulaz (VG, Turkey) representing Dr Pakdil. Dr Gulaz was accompanied by Dr Naci Bulut, FMD expert and member of the EuFMD Special Committee for Research.

Observers from the **international organizations** were Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel (AEF, Head of Sector, DG-SANTE), Dr Juan Lubroth, CVO-FAO, and Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, OIE. Dr Don King represented the WRL-FMD at The Pirbright Institute (TPI), and Dr Eoin Ryan (ER, STC) participated as the Chair of the **Standing Technical Committee**.

The **Secretariat** for the 93rd Session comprised Dr Keith Sumption (KS, EuFMD Executive Secretary), Nadia Rumich (NR, Communications and Networks Officer), and Dr Mark Hovari (MS Contingency Planning Officer).

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (**Appendix 1**).

2. Report on the activities since the 92nd Session

The Report (**Appendix 2**) was provided by Keith Sumption, who summarized the outcome of the 92nd Executive Committee meeting and mentioned the preparation works done for 42nd EuFMD General Session (GS42) to be held in Rome, 20-21 April 2017. He highlighted that the past six months had been an intense period for the Secretariat within the current biennium (2015-2017). He then presented a timeline of all the events occurring since the last Executive Committee meeting and used a new reporting format for the components consisting of a one page summary report. Lastly, Dr Sumption explained the use of quantitative indicators of progress of the 16 components of EuFMD workplan, required both by FAO to track progress, a process consistent with the indicators agreed with the EC for Phase IV. Therefore the reporting every 6 months to the Committee will make use of these indicators. The EC funded work programme (Phase IV, 10/2015 to 09/2019) is in the 2nd year of the 48 month programme, with an extremely heavy program of activities in this period. The six-month report for this programme was provided in summary form (**Appendix 3**). The progress made has very largely met or exceeded the milestones and indicators set in the plan. The success stories, lessons learnt and proposals for change will be the subject of discussions in the later Items of the 93rd Session. A summary document on the proposals for change were provided under Item 4 of the Agenda.

The nine-month delay in initial funding of the EC programme had the effect of squeezing the 24-month activity plan into a period of circa 12 months, from April 2016 to April 2017. This has placed a huge burden on a few staff, but is now largely on track over the three Pillars.

Regarding the **EC program implementation, since 1st October 2016:**

a. Under Pillar I, the focus has been upon

- **Component 1.1: Training** – the delivery of the training programme, including two Real-Time Courses in Kenya, and three face to face workshops on crisis management, simulation exercises and putting vaccination to practice; in addition to five online courses delivered for NATIONAL level, and more than 1000 vets overall trained in this online course. The “FMD knowledge bank” has been developed as a tool to assist emergency planners and been well received.
- **Component 1.2: Contingency Planning** - the main output is a draft guide for exercises and training (“GET Prepared”); modeling networks and contingency planners webinar series have continued.
- **Component 1.3: THRACE** - Paolo Motta has been recruited to manage the surveillance activities, and a Tripartite Meeting held in March for the three countries, to revise the programme for 2017. Confidence in disease freedom has stayed consistently >90%.
- **Component 1.4 the Balkans** - the work component had a management meeting for the countries in January 2017. Following the use of the self-assessment tool, the design of the national simulation exercises began, aimed to be conducted May –June 2017.
- **Component 1.5 Fund for Applied Research** - a very successful Open Session was held in Portugal, with over 275 participants; a call for research proposals was conducted, with expectation to award contracts in April 2017.
- **Component 1.8 Risk communication** - the global monthly report (GMR) has been produced on time each month by Maria Scicluna, and is widely circulated and cited by PROMED in 2017 and others for value for risk information.

In support of Pillar II, of most significance has been:

- **Turkey** - the series of four separate workshops for veterinarians from the five regions of Anatolia, each of which involve a real-time investigation of a live outbreak, to train on investigation and tracing.
- **Trans-Caucasus (TCC)** -a successful workshop held in Georgia, for six countries in the region, and also Russian Federation, FAO and OIE participation, to plan surveillance actions to monitor vaccination and to plan for evidence for disease freedom (GEO).
- **Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Jordan** - an intensive set of workshops and meetings, including national cascade training in Egypt for FMD investigation. This work led to better recognition of the type O EA-3 epidemic, and contributed to FMD being detected and reported in Jordan. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) to deliver online training in Arabic to the region was concluded with the JUST (Jordanian Institute for Science and Technology).
- **Libya** - with FAO and OIE, a first meeting held with Libyan Veterinary Service after a gap of over two years. This lead to positive planning of activities in 2017.
- **Mauritania** - workshops concluded in the first drafting of a national plan (Risk Based Strategic Plan - RBSP) was completed after the workshop in March 2017, with good involvement of FAO and OIE (PRAPS).

- **Pillar II training resources** - a major new development, with new online courses drafted for the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP), Field Investigation Training course (FITc), and three others, now available for use (in English) in the region and for adaptation to other languages.

In support of Pillar III, focus on the Gf-TADS Working Group through

- PCP expert assistance to the Regional FMD Roadmap for **SAARC Countries** (held December 2016);
- Roll-out of regional online training on FMD to **Southern Africa** (SADC countries), culminating in a decision by the SADC Livestock Technical Committee to commit funds to develop an e-learning hub for Southern Africa, using the FMD model (March 2017).
- Preparation for a roll-out of regional training on the same model, for South Asia (SAARC) countries, from April 2017; activities included adaption of the course, support to FAO and OIE to promote the PCP and online epi-training to the regional EpiNetwork (Delhi, Feb 2017).
- **Global Surveillance**: supporting the 11th OIE/FAO FMD Lab Network, and regional epi/lab networking (Eastern Africa) and the establishment of a francophone network (October 2016) at the Open Session.
- Delivery of online training for the Indian Ocean islands (including the island of Reunion) at risk or affected by the FMD incursions in 2016;
- **Launch of the Progressive Control practitioners network**, *as a global network with a regular, monthly programme of training on planning or implementing FMD control.*

He proposed that the administrative and financial report be provided later under Agenda Item 14.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for the Report and noted the good progress made across the programme. He suggested that the detailed discussions be kept for the Items covering each of the three Pillars, which was accepted.

3. FMD situation – global and regional

The Report was presented (**Appendix 4**) by Dr Don King, Head of the WRL for FMD at Pirbright. He highlighted the series of long distance jumps of infection between virus pools, and the concern over vaccine selection for use against the serotype A /Asia/GVII in particular, the recent spread of O East-Africa 3 into Israel and complexity of vaccine selection in the neighbourhood given the African FMDV strains circulating in Egypt.

The subsequent discussion focused on the need for earlier development of matched vaccines and how incentives for this could be achieved. It was agreed that FMD vaccine producers should be renegotiated to attend the General Session (Merial, MSD, FGI-ARRIAH and SAP Institute did). Vaccination in Turkey against A Iran 05 was discussed, on the basis that risk remains that it is circulating in Iran. The importance of South Asia as a source for other regions was agreed, necessitating greater attention to the risks from this region. The potential impact of "Brexit" on funding for the EU-RL and FAO-WRL was discussed. The EuFMD should seek assurance from the Institute and UK Government concerning supporting the WRL to a sufficient extent before the Letter of Agreement (Contract) with FAO/EuFMD is renewed in October 2017.

4. Executive Committee Report to the General Session - Pillar I

An overview of the progress on the Pillar I workplan since the 41st General Session was given by Mark Hovari, EuFMD (**Appendix 5**). He raised questions in his presentation which led to a good discussion, with identification of potential options and solutions to issues raised. In particular:

The continued need for a suitable animal disease spread model for training and decision support, and the potential to fund this under the FAR Fund;

The use of unused training credits, with solutions such as "use or lose", the reduction by 50% of a members Training Credit if they don't use in the current 24 month period

Incentives for sub-regional courses, providing credit (funds) for members of the Executive Committee to manage courses within their regions, assuming that organizing at a regional location will enable greater participation by MDS at their own expense;

Extending the EuFMD e-learning capacity (in training management systems for tracking trainee uptake and progress) to national level, to those that want a system to manage the national uptake of e-learning and other courses. This was seen as needed, though not the main priority of the EuFMD;

On the Thrace programme (Component 1.3) the request for additional person (Greece) was raised but decision postponed until after the results of current discussions in Brussels on financial support for LSD programmes in 2017 is finalized. The positive support for a "Statement of Intentions" agreement between the three countries, to be ratified at the 42nd General Session (GS42) by signature;

On the Balkan programme (Component 1.4), it was agreed that Ukraine be invited to participate in future activities under this work component (Moldova is current included); and that a regular technical co-ordination meeting is needed to maintain progress. The incoming EuFMD Executive Committee member for the non-EU Balkan countries could assist to arrange this, with the Secretariat.

The Chairman thanked Dr Hovari for his report and the Committee for excellent discussions. The potential modifications to working practises and to specific components would be taken into consideration in the planning of the work programme following the General Session, in April.

5. Executive Committee Report to the General Session - Pillar I

Mark Hovari explained the progress made to develop the technical papers for the General Session. On Technical item 1 "*Towards a framework for resolving ethical conflicts relating to disease control measures*", Professor Herwig Grimm joined the session by skype and presented the plan for the requested paper. The Committee discussed the paper, provided a number of guidance ideas and were enthusiastic that this item go ahead. Regarding the private sector Item, the paper and choice of presenter were discussed. It was agreed that the topic is of such common importance it should be a priority for the work over the next two years. It should also be followed up in the work plan, aiming at a major presentation in 2019.

6. Pillar I future workplan

Areas for emphasis and de-emphasis. The paper provided by the Secretariat (**Appendix 6**) was reviewed and endorsed for presentation to the General Session.

7. Executive Committee Report to the General Session - Pillar II

The Executive Secretary provided the overall report of progress under Pillar II - the neighbourhood programme. The report from Turkey (**Appendix 7**, given by Dr Naci Bulut) and an extensive discussion on this then followed. The development and implementation of the new strategic plan, with the division of Anatolia into zones, was met with strong support and the initiation and success of this would be of benefit to the whole region. The support to the Turkish services to better implement and monitor the success of the control measures to prevent circulation

in the western zone was agreed as a priority. The recent workshops between GDFC and EuFMD for training veterinary staff in outbreak investigation were seen as a good model.

8. Pillar II Items for the General Session

Dr Jenny Maud provided a progress update and indicated how the technical paper for the General Session would be structured, and its conclusions. These were supported by the Session.

9. Pillar II future workplan

Areas for emphasis and de-emphasis. The paper provided by the Secretariat was reviewed and endorsed for presentation to the General Session.

10. Executive Committee Report to the General Session - Pillar III

A joint presentation (**Appendix 8**) by the GF-TADS working group partners was given, by Juan Lubroth (for FAO) and Laure Weber-Vintzel (for OIE). They highlighted the progress made in terms of PCP Stage indicators, in the first five years of the Global Strategy. Across the seven virus pools, three Regional Roadmaps had been organized in 2016, in addition to the SEACFMD Session which provides the occasion to do this for Pool 1 countries. These **Roadmap meetings were**

- 1st West Africa Roadmap meeting;
- 7th West Eurasia meeting (in 8 years, since 2008),
- 3rd SAARC meeting.

Under the agreed processes, Roadmap meeting are where the Stage Assessment process is applied. In the past year, **control plans have been approved for** Azerbaijan and Armenia, and **submitted** by Bhutan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. The relatively high progress from West Eurasia reflects the history and common effort between EuFMD, OIE and FAO in this region and needs to be replicated elsewhere.

Progress has also been made on PCP **Guiding documents**, for Vaccination and post-vaccination monitoring, and on an updated Guidance on developing Risk Based Strategic Plans (RBSP) (V2). **In the pipeline** is the 2nd edition of PCP guidelines, and Guidance on Developing Risk assessment plans (entry for PCP Stage 1).

The current WG priorities were described as:

- Finalize the two-year work plan, identifying priorities;
- Develop the socio-economic guidelines;
- Strengthen regional epi and lab networks;
- Describe intra-regional animal movements;
- Advocate for Component 3;
- Support to countries in PCP Stages 0 & 1.

Both presenters expressed their appreciation for the support and collaboration with EuFMD over the past two years and indicated the five areas where they would request support from EuFMD, under the future Pillar III. Specifically:

- The provision of E-learning / webinars:
- before roadmaps and in-between roadmaps;
- on PCP and socio-economic (once the guidelines are developed);

- on outbreak investigation (regional or national level);
- on vaccination strategies;
- for the epi and the lab networks;
- for FAO/OIE regional officers and FMD experts.
- Expert missions to support the development and implementation of national plans: RAP and RBSP (two-three per year).

Support the GF-TADs FMD WG, by providing (one) dedicated staff to support the day to day activities: WG and regional meetings, guiding documents, reports and follow-up on regional recommendations

- Liaise with the EuFMD secretariat;
- Support and participate in Roadmap meetings & network meetings;
- Support the development of specific guidelines (socio-economic guidelines, template for the National Control Plan).
- Support procurement of diagnostic reagents and sample submission.
- Funding of proficiency panels.

The OIE also thanked the EuFMD for agreeing to provide a day of PCP training for OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives, in Paris (31st March 2017). This is the first such event for the OIE and follows from similar training provided to FAO in the past.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and, on behalf of the all members, was pleased to record the positive and productive working relations. He also noted the evidence that this is making a difference to the application of FMD management under the Global Strategy. Clearly, the challenge remains enormous and the resources very limited. He thanked the Working Group of GF-TADS for their clear set of requests for support and indicated that the Secretariat would look at options for how these might be supported, when developing the new workplan after the General Session.

The presentation was then discussed. Dr Lubroth indicated he strongly supported a 7th seat on the FMD working group (WG), for EuFMD. Dr Brusckke questioned the need to have parity of seat numbers between organizations as this is a technical group, not a decision-making body. Dr Weber-Vintzel indicated the OIE policy on the matter, for parity between the GF-TADS partners, thus if FAO agreed to give up a place the matter could be solved. It was agreed that EuFMD would be welcome to attend as observer, to meetings in Rome or Paris.

11. Pillar III future workplan

Areas for emphasis and de-emphasis. The paper provided by the Secretariat was reviewed and endorsed for presentation to the General Session.

12. Standing Technical Committee (STC) report

The report (**Appendix 9**) was provided by Dr Eoin Ryan, Chair of the Standing Technical Committee (STC). He covered the progress of the Open Session (Cascais, October 2016) and the development of the call for research proposals for the FAR Fund. It was hoped the 2nd stage review process would be completed at the GS42 in Rome, where final decisions could be made by the Executive Officers together with the EC.

13. Proposal for establishing a Special Committee on Biorisk Management (Biocontainment)

Dr Ryan provided the report and proposal (**Appendix 10**) to establish the Special Committee. The Session discussed the paper and the importance of ensuring the member states and EC have access to sufficient expertise for development and implementation of the standards, and to cover the biocontainment issues in non-free member states. The need for wider communication on biocontainment (“BR Management network”) was presented by Dr Ryan, based on feedback after the initial positive webinars where it seems there is a lack of such a forum at present.

The proposed TOR were accepted as presented.

Regarding its membership, Dr Bognar felt it was not adequately geographically balanced. The STC was requested to come up with a list of experts from across the MS, including Tier C and B as well as high containment (Tier D) laboratories, for the Officers to consider, for presentation to the GS42, being mindful of the need to balance the cost of meetings with the need for sufficient expertise.

14. Financial Report: Administrative Fund, and future budget for the Emergency and Training Fund

Keith Sumption provided the Financial Report and proposal for the budgets for the Administrative Fund (MTF/INT/011/MUL) and Emergency and Training Fund (MTF/INT/004/MUL) (**Appendix 11**). The Executive Secretary was asked to clarify if the P1 position was a completely new position or replacing a previous. He indicated it was a new position, which had not been on the budget before. The increased volume of work and responsibilities imposed by the expanded programme has called for this new position.

The addition of a senior technical consultant was also discussed, and was agreed, on the basis that the person is a manager or technical expert and the term “advisor” is avoided since the Executive can already provide this role.

Relating to the membership of **Ukraine**, the Executive Committee did not agree to waive a full two years of contributions should they join - but would agree to this for the first year.

In the case of **Iceland**, the Committee agreed not to ask for the contributions for the period they had not fully withdrawn from membership, but did not receive any additional activities or support and thus were not an additional cost to the other members.

Regarding the proposal for the Emergency and Training Fund (MTF/INT/004/MUL), the Committee agreed on the proposed budget be presented to the GS42. They also agreed to keep the Fund operating to the end of 2019 on the expectation that the funds to be received will cover the costs of the outlays expected.

Conclusion

The Session agreed to the Budget proposal for the Administrative Fund (MTF/INT/011/MUL) and Emergency and Training Fund (MTF/INT/004/MUL), on the basis of the Tables of contributions and expenditures provided in the paper, and on the basis of the points indicated above.

15. Evaluation of the EC Programme, Phase IV

The Session did not agree to have an additional Item on the GS42 Agenda from the Evaluation Service of FAO indicating their role and recent findings of evaluation of projects on animal health. They agreed that a side-meeting with the service would be preferable to discuss the potential evaluation of the Phase IV EC programme.

16. Any other business

It was agreed with the OIE and FAO that a side-event be organized for the TransCaucasus countries (TCC) at the OIE General Session, to follow-up, 12 months after the signing of the "Statement of Intentions". This had been foreseen at the TCC side-event at the 2016 Session. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the DDG OIE to identify a date and room for this.

Closing

Dr Angot thanked Professor Friedrich Schmoll and his efficient team for their work with the EuFMD team to prepare for the Session, Dr Herzog, CVO-Austria for the hospitality, and Dr Maria Fink, for the tour of the new laboratory.

Finally, he acknowledged the excellent work done by the entire EuFMD team, in preparation for the meeting.



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