

Recommendations¹

Considering

1. The extent and impact of the FMD epidemics in West Eurasia in 2010;
2. The threat of further FMD outbreaks in South-East Europe;
3. The uncertain environment for FMD prevention and management in parts of the Middle-East and North Africa, as a result of political developments and their impact upon the trans-border movements of people and animals;
4. The uncertainty on the persistence of infection in wildlife in the forest ecosystems common to the eastern Bulgaria/Turkish border;
5. The current threat of type A and Asia-1 outbreaks developing into national or regional epidemics, threatening South-East Europe and untouched parts of the Middle-East;
6. The need for improvement in early detection of new epidemic threats, including the greater sharing of data regarding FMD outbreaks and improved recognition and response to significant events;
7. The continuous need for International FMD Reference Laboratory (IRL) services to ensure the member states and their National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), as well as international organisations and affected countries are able to rapidly receive the guidance and information and reference services needed, and taking note of the financial situation that affects the future provision of IRL services by the EuFMD member states;
8. The difficulty of strategy development in the context of established long distance movement patterns and price gradients for animals and animal products;
9. The limited amounts of vaccine for emergency use and the need to achieve greater efficiency and impact of preventive vaccination programmes in countries which operate them;
10. The progress made to implement the West Eurasia Roadmap for FMD control, and the need for benefit/cost assessments for further investments in FMD prevention and control;
11. The progress made to implement the EuFMD 4 year Strategy Plan adopted at the 38th Session, but mindful of the new risk situation and the scale of the challenge remaining;
12. The opportunity created for greater sharing of information for risk management;
13. The challenges faced by member states to maintain their capacity for FMD control in face of budgetary constraints and to identify critical issues and resources that would affect ability to control epidemics of different scale, and the benefits to decision makers and policy analysts of modelling as a tool to aid decision making, and the importance of correct model interpretation and data input;

¹ The complete Report and all the Appendices are available online
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/commissions/eufmd/commissions/eufmd-home/reports/general-sessions/en/>

14. That the West Eurasia FMD Control Roadmap, and regional co-operation on FMD prevention and control in Europe, may provide a model for other regions to establish Roadmaps for FMD control based on the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP);

15. The advantages of co-operation between the EuFMD Commission and scientists and institutions developing new tools for FMD surveillance and control, and the risk that new tools will not enter into use without support for adaptation and evaluation;

16. The changing global landscape for animal production, movement, and trade, and the need for technical strategic guidance to the EuFMD Commission, its members and the international organizations, on issues and gaps that affect progress in FMD risk management;

17. The experiences of Bulgaria, Japan and the Republic of Korea in dealing with FMD outbreaks, given that the lessons learned include the benefits of training, contingency planning, laboratory capacity assessment, strict biosecurity and stringent border controls;

18. The progress made under GfTADS to develop the PCP as a common tool to assist countries to develop effective and sustainable national strategies for FMD control, and the need to develop and sustain regional initiatives in all of the seven epidemiologic regions that will impact upon the disease burden in source countries and reduce the threat and economic impacts at local, European and global scales.

Endorses

1. The work plan for the biennium, as proposed in Item 6;

2. The proposed budget for the Commission for the coming biennium;

3. The nominations for the EuFMD Executive Committee and the proposal for the Standing Technical Committee and Special committee on Research ("Research Group").

Recommends that

Relating to the management of FMD crises

1. Member states should ensure they benefit from lessons learned from previous FMD epidemics worldwide and address in particular the following aspects of contingency planning: training of personnel, biosecurity protocols, laboratory capacity assessment, border controls, internal and international communication channels, and logistics of animal carcass disposal;
2. The issue of budgetary constraints faced by member states is kept in mind in the development and implementation of actions over the next two years, and that the international role and support provided is arranged in a way that is realistic to the needs of the member states and of the prospects for sustainable multilateral actions.

Relating to the current risks in the European neighbourhood

3. Member countries and those in European neighbourhood should take note of the risk relating to the current epidemics of Asia-1, type A and type O in West Eurasia, and ensure measures are in place for rapid detection and response; and should reconsider their contingency plans, in light of the current events and risk factors including the potential role of wildlife;
4. The level of protection against the circulating lineage of Asia-1 of current concern is assessed in a challenge test, using the Asia-1 Shamir antigen most likely to be used by member states;
5. Increased support is provided for planning, evaluation and monitoring of FMD management in West Eurasia, in particular to identify benefit/cost of different national strategies and provide epidemiology support for analysis of new threats, and to evaluate and optimize measures for disease control management;
6. Member states should consider the use of modelling tools as decision making aids, while ensuring that the output of such models are clearly understood by decision makers with respect to uncertainty and sensitivity. Member states using such models should engage in comparisons with other states to constructively examine the issues affecting confidence in their use, and that support be given to assist countries to review the suitability of tools for their needs.

Relating to the progressive control of FMD in endemic regions

7. The continued development and promotion of the PCP, in particular the refinement of assessment criteria and processes, the possible inclusion of mandatory requirements for reporting of results of surveillance for FMD, and the quality of vaccination and other control programs;
8. The FAO and OIE continue their development of a GfTADS Global Strategy for the Control of FMD, drawing upon the technical and organization expertise of the EuFMD and its Technical Committee, and are encouraged to continue plans for a Global Conference on FMD Control in June of 2012.

Relating to the priorities for the Commission in the coming biennium

9. Attention be given to the situation arising in South-East Mediterranean countries, and that the EuFMD Secretariat be empowered to respond to requests for assistance on FMD control, working at all times in full consultation with the EC and regional FAO/OIE offices;
10. The continuation of support for the West Eurasia FMD Control Roadmap, including currently agreed national projects, but with a greater emphasis upon the objective assessment and use of indicators, including reporting of FMD cases and serological survey results, to measure progress in the control of FMD and assistance for countries with evidence of virus circulation and no reporting of outbreaks/suspicions;
11. The Real-Time FMD training courses are continued, with the aim of training at least 2 persons per member country and neighbourhood country in the coming biennium;
12. Increased support is given for non-EU countries in the Balkan region to establish a functional minimum capacity for FMD lab diagnosis, to be achieved within the next 6-12 months, in line with minimum diagnostic capacity requirements adopted by the 38th Session and the EU Directive;
13. Mechanisms are established for emergency procurement of FMDV vaccine that fit with the interests and possibilities of member states that hold national antigen banks;
14. The Commission or members of the Executive Committee, making use of the Standing Technical Committee, and in support of GfTADS Global Working Group, establishes/fosters dialog between European parties funding FMD surveillance, and other international funding bodies, on the issue of international support for FMD surveillance, Reference Laboratories, and other actions that

have the aim of promoting the PCP application at regional and national level, including a yearly review on the status of international support for FMD surveillance and control;

15. The Standing Technical Committee give guidance on the process of application, or further development, of the priority setting procedures for vaccine/antigen bank holdings and on the proposed priorities for technical studies, including studies on the role of wild boar/wildlife, and on the need for specific meetings or actions in relation to gaps/issues identified during the 39th Session;
16. Funding be sought for the studies identified in the Berlin meeting of experts, including on the exposure of wildlife in Turkey to FMD, in order to better validate risk assessments and the develop models for wildlife infection;
17. A yearly review of R&D relevant to FMD control is undertaken, to identify new opportunities for application and threats to development or adoption; this should be managed through the Research Group, working with international consortia on FMD research such as the Global Foot and Mouth Disease Research Alliance (GFRA).

Item 5. Election of the Executive Committee and Subcommittees

Dr Lubroth, Chief of the Animal Health Service, FAO, presided over the Elections of the new Executive Committee, in the presence of representatives of the FAO Legal office. He first asked for nominations for the position of Chairman and two Vice-Chairpersons, then of the five other members of the Executive Committee. The following were elected:

Position	Elected	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Chairman	U.Herzog (Austria)	United Kingdom	Estonia
Vice-Chairman	N Gibbens (UK)	Sweden	Netherlands
Vice-Chairman	L Denneberg (Sweden)	Germany	Finland
Member	Z Micovic (Serbia)	Croatia	United Kingdom
Member	N Pakdil (Turkey)	Austria	Bulgaria
Member	S Doudonakis (Greece)	Bulgaria	Turkey
Member	R Chetan (Romania)	Greece	Germany
Member	L Carbajo Goñi (Spain)	Portugal	Austria

He asked if any further proposals for members would be forthcoming from the members present and there were none. The Executive Committee was unanimously accepted, with acclamation. He then handed the rest of the elections to the re-elected Chairman, Dr Herzog, who thanked the members for their confidence in him and the new Executive to undertake the responsibilities placed upon them.

Election of the Subcommittees

Dr Sumption presented a paper (**Appendix 16**) which had been previously circulated to the EuFMD membership in advance of the Session, concerning the Standing Technical Committee and "Research Group". The Constitutional position was that Subcommittees were established at the regular Sessions of the Commission and for the purposes agreed at the Session. The first Standing Technical Committee was agreed in 1957, and subsequently this Committee had organized study tours to leading laboratories in Europe and elsewhere, which was known as the Research Group of the STC. The Executive Committee, having considered the situation, had come to the conclusion that the situation should be clarified, with a distinct role for a small Standing Technical Committee relating to technical guidance to the executive on risk management, and a Special Committee on research to maintain the need for a cadre of experts with continuous involvement in the scientific disciplines in FMD diagnosis, surveillance, vaccinology or epidemiology.

Conclusion

The proposal, including the resolutions regarding the Committee and the number of its members in the biennium, was endorsed.

Election to the Standing Technical Committee and Special Committee on Research

Dr Herzog on behalf of the outgoing Executive Committee presented a proposal for membership of the Committees, as follows:

Standing Technical Committee

David Paton	United Kingdom
Christianne Brusckke	Netherlands
Preben Willeberg	Denmark
Matthias Kramer	Germany

Special Committee on Research

Twelve members were proposed, with the World Reference laboratory (WRL) to be invited to each relevant meeting as an *ex-officio* member. The list was endorsed by the Session without further proposals.

A. Dekker, Netherlands

B. Haas, Germany

E. Brocchi, Italy

E. Ryan, Ireland

G. Georgiev, Bulgaria

G. Belsham, Denmark

K. De Clercq, Belgium

L. Bakkali, France

M. Arias, Spain

M. Bellaiche, Israel

N. Bulut, Turkey

S. Zientara, France