



**REMESA 2012, co-chairmanship
France - Morocco**

5th Joint Permanent Committee of the REMESA
Rabat, Morocco - 4 and 5 April 2012

Synthesis and summary of conclusions

Point of the agenda	Decision	Implementation
Validation of the JPC reports	Validation after a period of 30 days after having sent the draft report.	REMESA Secretariat
FMD in the region	See the FMD resolution of the REMESA (document attached).	REMESA presidency and secretariat
Model of the FAO and OIE activity sheet	Use this model for FAO and OIE activities	FAO and OIE
Action plans for FAO and OIE in 2012	Validated (including RVF project, FAO surveillance questionnaire, communication and socio-economy activities, following up of health status activities, network of veterinary schools, etc.).	FAO and OIE
Website	- Put presentations and minutes of JPC meetings on line - Create private access areas on the REMESA website	FAO Tunis
Twinning in the region	Coordination of twinning by consensus.	Member Countries
Proficiency tests	Monitor the ongoing discussion with the European Commission	FAO and OIE
REMESA Cooperation Framework	Preparation (validation and final translation) of the document by the FAO legal service for signature at the next JPC meeting.	FAO
Funding of JPC meetings	Maintain the current procedure.	REMESA secretariat
Enlargement of REMESA	As yet no decision has been taken regarding this point. If a request were made, article 10 of the draft Cooperation Framework would be used ("consensus agreement of the parties").	Membre Countries
Activities to develop, funding	RVF project with French and Italian funding	FAO and OIE
Date and place of the 6 th JPC meeting	Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 November 2012, Montpellier (France). To be confirmed.	Co-chair with the REMESA secretariat

The fifth meeting of the REMESA Joint Permanent Committee was held in Rabat on 4 and 5 April 2012. CVOs and representatives of REMESA Member Countries, EU, AMU, FAO and OIE participated in this meeting, which was co-chaired by Morocco and France (co-chairmanship of REMESA 2012). Mauritania sent its apologies and Egypt did not answer the invitation (see list of participants in attachments).

The meeting began with the adoption of the agenda and validation of the minutes of the fourth meeting of the JPC held in Rome in October 2011.

The programme was structured in three sessions as detailed below (PowerPoint presentations are available at <http://www.remesanetwork.org>).

Zoosanitary situation, prevention, control and eradication of foot and mouth disease:

- The disease situation in the region was presented by the OIE. The two main events since October 2011 (previous JPC in Rome) are the occurrence of the Schmallenberg virus (SBV) in Europe and the reoccurrence of the SAT2 virus in Libya and Egypt.
- The CVOs of the Member Countries then detailed the disease situation in their countries, particularly in regard to PPR and rabies in North Africa, Bluetongue (BT), West Nile virus and foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Libya and SBV in Europe.
- The Algerian CVO provided information of PPR outbreaks reported to the OIE on 19 March 2012 (virus lineage IV). He provided details of the main measures taken against PPR (e.g. acquisition of vaccine and laboratory reagents or organization of serosurveys in all wilayates).
- The SBV situation in Europe was presented by the French CVO, who provided details of the characteristics of this emerging disease, which must be considered on the same level as Akabane disease. He also said that it is a livestock disease of limited economic impact (0.07% in cattle and 3.1% in sheep flocks in France).
- The Libyan CVO presented the history of FMD in his country and provided information on the current situation (serotype O and SAT2 in the region of Benghazi and serotype O in the Tripoli region).
- The FAO representative mentioned the possibility of carrying out a CMC-AH mission in Libya. In regard to the FMD situation in the region, an FMD resolution was validated by the REMESA members (see attached document). This resolution will be presented by France and Spain at the next EU-FMD meeting, which will be held in Bucharest (Romania) on 12 and 13 April 2012.
- At the end of the meeting, Morocco expressed its readiness to host an FMD antigen bank to maximise the region's ability to react in a coordinated manner.

FAO - OIE activities, cooperation and twinning in the region:

- Activity reports and action plans were presented by OIE and FAO and validated by REMESA members.
- Action Plan 2012 foresees in particular: financing and implementation of a Rift Valley Fever (RVF) project, the sending of an FAO questionnaire on surveillance and emergency plans on major transboundary diseases and zoonoses to REPIVET focal points, communication and socio-economy activities (communication plan, training plan on communication, database on transboundary movements of animals and animal products, a study on "livestock – diseases – poverty," etc.), PVS Gap Analysis missions, veterinary products regional activities, network of veterinary schools, follow up of health status activities (including FMD) and regional collaboration on bluetongue.
- The OIE twinning projects were reviewed (BT and food safety between Italy and Tunisia, PPR between France and Morocco, BT and African horse sickness between the UK and Morocco). The current cooperation activities were also presented (BT regional collaboration programme between Italy, Lebanon, Tunisia and Algeria) and the European twinning between Tunisia, France, Italy and Spain on capacity building of the National Animal Health Center (CNVZ in French).
- Regarding future proficiency tests, discussions with the European Commission (EC) will continue in order to enable national laboratories in North African countries to participate in the ring trials organized by European reference laboratories.
- The representative of the EC announced that a TAIEX1 seminar on animal health will be organized at the beginning of September 2012, in Cyprus (this country will hold the presidency of the EU in the second half of 2012). He also encouraged those countries that wish to apply for European twinning, stating that funding is available, and he mentioned the possibility of twinning projects at regional level.

¹ Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument

Cooperation framework and working of REMESA:

- Details of the final version of the Cooperation Framework were provided at the meeting, with some minor modifications (see attachment). In particular, the involvement of the OIE and FAO in the decision process was discussed. It was confirmed that, as “advisory members”, OIE and FAO participate fully in decision making with the CVOs of Member Countries.
- Member Countries chose to maintain the current procedure regarding the financing of the JPC meetings.
- The discussion on how to enlarge the REMESA resulted in a consensus which stated that, currently, going beyond the provisions of the Cooperation Agreement ("consensus agreement of the parties") is not a priority. On this occasion, the EC representative noted the interest of Cyprus and Malta in REMESA. These two countries could be invited to the next meeting of the JPC as observers, if they so request.
- The 6th JPC meeting will be held on Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 November 2012 in Montpellier in France (information to be confirmed by the French CVO).

Attachments :

- List of Participants
- FMD resolution of REMESA
- Cooperation framework as amended
- Example of an activity sheet