



REMESA 2013
co-chair Libya – Portugal

7th Meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC)
Faro, Portugal, 13 and 14 June 2013

Synthesis and summary of conclusions

Subject	Decision	Implementation
<u>Reminder:</u> JPC reports validation	Validation at the end of a period of 30 days after sending the draft report.	REMESA Secretariat (OIE Tunis)
OIE FMD-free status (with or without vaccination)	OIE Tunis will re-start the support process for North African countries. Meeting of the CVOs of the North Africa region (Tunis in mid-October 2013).	OIE, FAO and Member States
Collaboration between REMESA and EU-FMD	Formalisation of collaboration between REMESA and EU-FMD.	FAO, OIE and EU-FMD
Regional Strategy and Control Plan for PPR	The regional PPR strategy will be discussed by the CVOs mid-October 2013 (coordination GF-TAD)	FAO, OIE and Member States
Need for a vaccine bank in the region	Seek support for the establishment of a vaccine bank (relying on the experience of the OIE and FAO in managing a vaccine bank and organising vaccination campaigns).	Member States
Animal health activities in the region (summary table)	Re-organise the table by disease and by issue.	OIE, FAO and Member States
Mediterranean Animal Health Meeting - the role of farmers in the health agenda	Proposal approved by the CVOs (Rabat, first quarter 2014). Funding to be determined.	Franco-Moroccan co-presidency 2012
New CPF of FAO	Include Animal Health in CPFs, which are strategic reference documents for the FAO.	FAO and Member States
Work Programme 2014–2019	Finalise a proposal based on four areas of work within three months (see report)	OIE and FAO
Veterinary associations that focus on technical issues	Develop regional information-sharing activities for private veterinarians within the framework of REMESA.	FAO, OIE and Member States
Collaboration between REMESA and EFSA	Define the terms and topics of REMESA–EFSA collaboration in accordance with CVOs and DG Sanco.	Member States, EFSA, DG Sanco, FAO, OIE
Enlargement of REMESA: integration of Cyprus, Greece and Malta	Integration approved. Formal request sent to the 2013 co-presidency of REMESA.	Not applicable
Co-presidency of REMESA 2014	Mauritania and Malta	Not applicable
Date and place of the 8th JPC	End of 2013 (co-chairs: Libya - Portugal) or last week of March 2014 (Valletta, Malta - to be confirmed).	Co-chair with REMESA Secretariat

The seventh meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) was held in Faro, Portugal, on 13 and 14 June 2013. CVOs and representatives of the ten member countries of REMESA, and representatives of the European Commission, FAO and OIE were present. The meeting was co-chaired by Portugal and Libya (which hold the co-presidency of REMESA for 2013). The CVO of Malta and the representative of the CVO of Greece participated as new members of REMESA. Cyprus, which is also a new member of REMESA, was excused. The Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) could not participate in the JPC (see the attached list of participants).

After thanking all the participants for their presence, the Director General of the Veterinary Services of Portugal welcomed all participants, especially the new members of REMESA, namely, Cyprus, Greece and Malta. The representative of FAO noted the relevance of this particular initiative, thanking Portugal for hosting. The OIE representative noted the consistency of the technical and financial support of REMESA partners and the presence of all member countries at the meeting in Faro; these two points can be considered signs of encouragement and support for the development of the network. The representatives of the OIE and FAO also welcomed Cyprus, Greece and Malta and noted the presence of representatives of farmers and the veterinary profession, who were attending a REMESA meeting for the first time.

The proceedings began with the approval of the agenda.

Animal health situation in the region and work session on FMD, PPR and RVF:

The CVOs of member countries and the representatives from Greece and Malta summarised the animal health situation in their countries, particularly in regard to PPR, rabies, bluetongue (BT), West Nile fever, foot and mouth disease (FMD), Rift Valley fever (RVF), Schmallenberg virus (SBV) and brucellosis. Updates on the FMD situation in Libya and Egypt, the PPR situation in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, and the RVF situation in Mauritania were then presented.

- ⇒ The CVOs of North African countries asked that the OIE Tunis process for providing support in the preparation of dossiers for obtaining FMD-free status (with or without vaccination) be re-started.
- ⇒ In order to benefit from the expertise of EU-FMD¹ in the region, collaboration between REMESA and EU-FMD should be formalised within the framework of the FAO-OIE global strategy on FMD and linked to the working mechanism developed by the GF-TADs. The representative of the EU-FMD Secretariat reiterated the readiness of the Secretariat to cooperate with the REMESA network.
- ⇒ The need for a regional PPR strategy associated with the preparation and validation of a regional PPR control plan was stressed in particular by Morocco. The OIE Representative for North Africa in Tunis announced the organization mid-October 2013 of a meeting of the North African CVO aimed at formulating a FMD and PPR regional strategy and to continue the work on OIE official status. This regional PPR and FMD strategy will be developed in coordination with the GF-TADs.
- ⇒ The implementation of the FAO/OIE project on RFV will continue until the end of 2013 and will include the organisation of an inter-laboratory test.

The Vmerge² project (3 million euros from the end of 2013 to the end of 2016) was briefly presented by the representative of CIRAD. This project aims to improve monitoring of emerging viral vector-borne diseases in the Mediterranean area with a combination of

¹ The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

² Integrative and innovative research for improving surveillance and control of emerging vector-borne diseases of farm animals in Europe and neighbouring countries. Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7 of the European Union)

research and surveillance. A component for supporting veterinary services in the region is also planned, in collaboration with FAO.

Vaccine bank for rabies, FMD and PPR: regional perspectives:

⇒ The need for a regional vaccine bank (at least for FMD) was emphasised. REMESA countries must seek support for the establishment of such a vaccine bank. The know-how of the OIE and FAO in managing a vaccine bank and in organising an immunisation campaign will be helpful.

The organisation of a Mediterranean Animal Health Meeting on the role of farmers in the health agenda:

During the Franco-Moroccan co-presidency of REMESA, a project to organise a Mediterranean Animal Health Meeting on the role of farmers in the health agenda was approved. In Faro, for the first time in the REMESA context, representatives of farmers from Portugal and France gave presentations on their organisations. The Director of Health Protection Groups (GDS, France) announced the organisation of the "First Mediterranean Animal Health Meeting - the role of farmers in the health agenda." The meeting will take place in Rabat, Morocco, during the first quarter of 2014. The source of funding for this event has yet to be clarified.

Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education in the Mediterranean Region (REEV-Med):

The creation of REEV-Med was approved at its First General Assembly held in Rabat (Morocco) in September 2012. According to its statutes, the objective of REEV-Med is "to maintain, develop and promote standards for the teaching of veterinary medicine in Mediterranean countries, particularly those in the South Mediterranean." The permanent secretariat of REEV-Med is provided by the OIE SRR in Tunis. The next General Assembly of the network will take place on the 19 September 2013 in Brescia, Italy.

Summary table of the main animal health activities and collaborations in the REMESA region (excluding OIE - FAO activities, which are the subject of a separate table):

The presentation of the summary table was much appreciated by the participants. The CVOs suggested that the table also be reorganised by disease and by issue.

Animal health in the new CPF³ of the FAO:

The CPF is the key country strategy paper for FAO. This document provides answers to key questions that are fundamental to defining the role of FAO in the country. The FAO manager responsible for animal health and production in North Africa encouraged REMESA countries to include the issue of animal health in the CPF, which is the subject of an agreement between national governments and FAO.

Action Plan 2014–2019:

The CVOs were asked for advice about the direction that the next REMESA action plan 2014–2019 should take. The RCU⁴ in Tunis will finalise this document over the next three months. The CVOs asked to be consulted during the preparation of the documents and before the next JPC meeting. The REMESA Secretariat will take into account the comments and will develop a proposal based on four working areas: (i) priority diseases - FMD, PPR, RVF and Rabies, (ii) the OIE PVS pathway and the FAO CPF, (iii) an information exchange platform and coordination of REMESA activities, and (iv) financing of REMESA. The Plan will specify the particular objectives, strategies, actions and indicators related to these working areas. The FAO representative asked the CVOs to make available to FAO the PVS and Gap Analysis reports of their countries to better understand the national priorities.

³ Country Programming Framework

⁴ Regional Coordination Unit

The role of a private veterinary organisation in the fight against antimicrobial resistance:

In his speech, the President of the SNGTV⁵ (France) detailed the practical tools available to private veterinarians who are members of SNGTV, e.g. good practice guides, such as the GBP⁶ "for the use of veterinary drugs" (with evaluation forms and associated factsheets), or "VetElevage" software, which facilitates the establishment of a data collection system, as recommended by the OIE standards. The training programme for French private veterinarians (1,700-2,000 private veterinarians trained per year) was then discussed, highlighting both the ongoing collaboration with the countries of North Africa (this year 30 to 40 private veterinarians from Maghreb participated in the SNGTV Congress in France) and the possibility of developing opportunities for private veterinarians in the REMESA region to share their experiences.

Regional collaboration between REMESA and EFSA⁷:

The representative of EFSA presented some examples of work carried out by EFSA (including regional risk analysis) and highlighted the potential collaborations between the REMESA network and EFSA that could be advantageous. The REMESA–EFSA collaboration must be developed in accordance with CVOs and DG Sanco.

Socio-economic and public–private partnerships:

In addition to the presentation on the activities developed by the RESEPSA⁸ network, FAO Tunis announced that a sub-regional workshop will be held in Hammamet from 24 to 26 June 2013 ("The Public–Private Partnership: Improving animal disease control"). The overall objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of veterinary services, associations of private veterinarians and professional farming organisations, so as to create a public–private partnership that is effective in the fight against animal diseases.

Conclusion:

In their conclusion, both the Portuguese and Libyan co-presidents reminded participants that the JPC meeting was an opportunity to discuss new topics and themes for the REMESA (SNGTV and private veterinary organisations, GDS and farmers organisations, REMESA/EU-FMD cooperation and, finally, REMESA/EFSA cooperation). The next meeting of the JPC could take place in late 2013 (Presidency Libya - Portugal) or during the last week of March 2014, as proposed by the representative of Malta, who will hold the co-presidency in 2014 with Mauritania.

Finally, all participants thanked Portugal for the excellent organisation of the CPC.

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Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- List of Participants

⁵ Société Nationale des Groupements Techniques Vétérinaires

⁶ Guide de bonnes pratiques

⁷ European Food Safety Authority

⁸ Réseau de socio-économie pour la production et la santé animale