

The Director General

Paris, 18 October 2005

Note to OIE Delegates of countries that would like to have information on international standards before re-organising their Veterinary Services

We were pleased to be informed that your country is restructuring the administrative organisation of the rural sector including Veterinary Services. The administration of the OIE Member Countries must evolve with national and international standards constraints and a reorganisation is often necessary to respond to new challenge. A reorganisation should take into account all available information and their consequences to ensure his efficiency.

The OIE mission is to assure the safety of international trade by the transparency and confidence in the global animal disease situation, the food safety, the scientific information and the relevant involvement of the Veterinary Services. The elaboration of sanitary standards related to animal health, including zoonosis and animal welfare should be undertaken along with improvement of the official Veterinary Services. None of the OIE objectives can be correctly achieved without worldwide national Veterinary Services complying with OIE standards.

The Veterinary Services of developing and “transition” countries are in urgent need of support to provide them with the necessary organisation, infrastructure, resources and capacities that will enable them to benefit more fully from World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures while at the same time providing greater protection for animal health and public health.

The OIE Member Countries consider Veterinary Services of all its Members Countries to be an International Public Good and their bringing into line with international standards (Structure, organisation, resources and capacities) as a public investment priority as well national, regional or international.

The OIE is striving to convince regional and international donors to assist countries to improve the quality and capacity building of VS based on the fundamental principles of an ethical, organisational and technical nature. The operations of the National Veterinary Services should always be based on scientific principles and be technically independent and immune from external pressures.

.../...

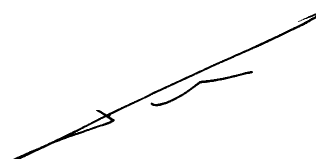
.../...

The Veterinary Services must be able to demonstrate by means of appropriate legislation, sufficient financial resources and effective organisation that they are in a position to have control of the establishment and application of animal health measures, and of international veterinary certification activities. The Veterinary Services should define and document the responsibilities and structure of the organisation in charge of the transparency of animal sanitary situation.

We have to convince Governments including the Ministries of Agriculture that reorganisation of administration is a great opportunity to comply efficiently with the international requirements and standards.

We are ready to provide you with more information and support for this challenge.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards at the end, with a few smaller, less distinct strokes below it.

Bernard Vallat

- P.J. : - Copy of new tool for evaluation of Veterinary Services using OIE international standards of Quality and evaluation (Performance, Vision and Strategy for National Veterinary Services).
- Copy of the Code on the Evaluation of the Veterinary Services (chapter1.3.3.)