

**74<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee  
of the  
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

**15-16th January 2007  
Pakistan Room (A-127), FAO HQs  
Rome, Italy**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

The Executive Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EUFMD) held its Seventy-Fourth Session in FAO, Rome, on the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2007.

Members of the **Executive Committee** present were: Dr Peter de Leeuw, the Netherlands (Acting Chairman); Dr Eugen Olaru, Romania, alternate to the CVO ; Dr Nihat Pakdil, Turkey; Dr Preben Willeberg, Denmark; Dr Spiros Dodounakis, Greece, alternate to the CVO; Professor Werner Zwingmann, Germany; and Dr Piergiuseppe Facelli, alternate to the CVO, Italy. Other participants were Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium), Chairman of the Research Group, and Dr Paton, representative of the FAO World reference Laboratory, UK and five technical or policy advisors accompanying members of the Committee. Other observers were Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel, Head of Sector, DG-SANCO, Brussels; and Professor Nikola Belev, President of the Regional Commission of the OIE for Europe. FAO was represented by Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the Animal Health Service.

**Executive summary**

The Session considered the current risk situation and recent events in FMD epidemiology in the region, and reviewed progress of actions as agreed in the Strategic Plan for 2005-8 and endorsed by the 72<sup>nd</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Sessions.

**The Committee were concerned with the following :**

- **the continuing** epidemic of FMD type A Iran 05 virus in the middle-east, involving Turkey, Iran, and most recently Jordan.
- The re-invasion of Thrace region, Turkey, in January 2007 by FMD type A Iran 05 virus. The measures being taken by the authorities in Turkey for control in Thrace were discussed; the latest event is considered a temporary surge in cases as a consequence of animal movements for the annual kurban festival. EUFMD support, with EC finance, involves provision of an emergency reserve of FMD vaccine (trivalent A 22 Iraq, O and Asia-1) for re-vaccination, and support to strengthen epidemiologic investigation of outbreaks during the winter risk period, in east, central and western (Thrace/Marmara) regions of Turkey.
- The continued spread of a strain of the FMD type O "PanAsia" topotype, which in 2005-6 has invaded middle-east countries including Turkey and most recently Jordan, and is often accompanied by severe clinical signs in small and large ruminants unless recently vaccinated with potent type O vaccines;
- The FMD situation in the western sahel, from where epidemic FMD type A viruses have been isolated and which are not well characterised and which may present a new threat to the north African countries and southern Europe.
- The potential for further spread of the A Iran 05 and type O panAsia variant viruses to countries in the near-east is likely in 2007.
- The high risk to the **Caucasus region** because of the incidence of type A and O infections in neighbouring regions of Turkey and Iran, and because of the relatively low and variable vaccination at village level in these source regions. Maintenance of the EC funded vaccination buffer zone along the border with Iran

and Turkey was considered essential, together with measures to build up capacity for early recognition and response to FMD outbreaks.

- The trend in FMD invasion across the eastern borders of Turkey, as a result of virus circulation in Iran; further work on reduction of the risk within Iran was recommended, particularly to address the issue of FMD movement through the animal marketing system;
- The need to increase the use of epidemiology expertise in risk assessment and in the work of the Standing Technical Committee, including in the area of selection and use of computer modelling to guide decision making;

The Committee considered the progress made by the Commission to implement the 2005 four year Strategic Plan, including field project support to FMD control in the Caucasus and Iran. Progress was considered satisfactory, but in view of the scale of the challenge, the collaborative effort must be given sufficient time to develop before change in risk could be expected; more attention to the countries on the southern borders of Turkey, and in regions of the sahel and east Africa was required to improve early warning on disease threats to Europe which may enter by a direct route, or indirectly through Turkey, the middle-east and north Africa.

Regarding the threat from endemic regions, the Committee welcomed the development by the research community of an initiative to produce technical tools, such as improved vaccines, to underpin international efforts to control FMD through a "Global Roadmap for control of FMD in endemic regions". It discussed the development of partnerships in the international community to reduce FMD risk, including a proposal from FAO to institutionalise the co-operation between the EUFMD Commission and the FAO services (EMPRES) in the field of international FMD surveillance and control.

In view of the recent events, the Committee agreed that in addition to discussion on the international control of FMD, that a paper for the 37<sup>th</sup> General Session (April 18-20<sup>th</sup> 2007) be prepared on [\*The middle-east and Mediterranean interface: trends in animal trade and prospects for risk reduction\*](#)

The Final report will be published on the EUFMD pages of the FAO website.