

### EuFMD Commission On the Standing Technical and Special Committees

#### ***Proposal to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session***

1. To adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Standing Technical Committee, and Special Committee for Research and Development of the FMD programme, as proposed by the Executive (Report of the 85<sup>th</sup> Session);
2. To develop an “Open Call “ system for the identification of experts for the Committees under the work programme of the Executive for the coming biennium.

#### ***Legal basis***

The EuFMD Constitution, in full accord with the Basic Texts of FAO, makes clear that *every Session of the Commission is empowered to establish Committees* which may be considered **Standing Committees** if there is the expectation of the need throughout their term of office on a range of issues, or **Special Committees**, relating to specific items, or **Temporary ones**, where further need beyond the immediate is not expected. The members of the Committees are approved at the regular Sessions and are usually elected on basis of their individual expertise. The Committees elect their own Chairperson.

#### ***Concerns addressed***

1. The need of the ExCom to receive guidance from the Standing Technical and/or Special Committee on priorities for decision and action, and for in depth analysis or technical papers in response to specific issues delegated to them;
2. The need of the Secretariat to receive guidance and advice from leading technical experts in the relevant fields, in development of the work programme to address the needs of the member states and the partners in international actions;
3. The need for greater engagement with the “national expert and expert groups” in the MS to ensure programmes develop that reflect their issues, and the role of the Conferences organised under the EuFMD Committees in this process.

## ***Position of the Executive Committee (Report of the 85<sup>th</sup> Session, February 2013)***

### *Terms of Reference for the Standing Technical Committee*

Will be proposed as follows to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session:

#### **To**

1. Advise the ExCom and Commission on appropriate measures of success and methodology for evaluation of programmes or projects to be taken forward;
2. Maintain an overview of FMD science and technology and global FMD issues to advise on appropriate policies or programmes that the Commission should consider;
3. Provide the ExCom and Com with advice on the scientific and technical aspects of any proposals for policies or programmes suggested by Members or others.

### *Terms of Reference for the Special Committee*

The 85<sup>th</sup> Session agreed upon the Title and Terms of reference for the Special Committee to be proposed for the biennium 2013-15, after review of the paper provided by the Secretariat, as follows:

#### *Special Committee on Research and Development of the FMD Programme*

Terms of Reference:

#### **To provide**

1. scientific and technical assessment of regular reports, or specific evaluations of programmes or projects, that are funded or supported by the Commission;
2. Scientific and technical assessment of proposals for research put forward for funding or support by the Commission.

It was also agreed that the Special (“Research”) Committee would continue to have a third responsibility, to develop specific guidance relating to their expertise and the needs of the EuFMD programme, including considering scientific and technical issues suggested by the Executive, Standing Committee or others. This would continue, for example relating to the bio-containment standards and other technical guidance.

The STC report also recommended that they should be funded to meet annually with the EuFMD Secretariat to review Programme progress and plans.

The Conclusions on this item at the 85<sup>th</sup> Session were:

1. The ToR for the STC should include the three functions as proposed by the Executive , with the fourth given to a Special Committee, and the Executive would propose a list of four names to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session;
2. The Special Committee functions in the biennium would include the two points delegated by the TC and the committee would be named for “research and development of the FMD programme”;
3. An “open call” for interest to serve on the Special Committee should be considered for the future, and be on the Agenda for the next Executive;
4. The list of Special Committee experts, as developed by the STC and Secretariat, should be revised and provided by the STC Chairman to the Chairman of the Executive before the 40<sup>th</sup> Session;
5. Consultants working for EuFMD to implement the activities should not be members of the STC but would as part of their Terms of Reference be expected to support the Committee work and meetings;
6. That an FMD expert from each of the 3 FAO Reference Centres for FMD in Europe (UK, Belgium and Italy) would be invited to be ex-officio members of the Special Committee.

## **Proposal from the Secretariat to the 85<sup>th</sup> Session**

1. To improve the process of technical guidance and review of the EuFMD programme activities, through establishing a **“Special Committee on Research and Development of the EuFMD Programme”** with experts whose profile is most appropriate to giving the type of technical input to the future 3 “Pillar” activities that is not currently found in the EuFMD team, or the STC;
2. A summary of the relationships proposed are shown below; the Executive Chairpersons would work mainly with the STC and Secretariat; the Special Committee would be supported by the Secretariat and provide reports on its meetings or positions to the ExCom through the STC.

### Role of the STC and Special Committee in relation to the Executive Committee and Secretariat



3. **Special Committee on “Research and Development of the FMD Programme”**; rationale, functions, and relationships

#### **Rationale**

The EuFMD Strategy for the four year period after the 40<sup>th</sup> Session in April 2013 is proposed to be 3 pillars [strategic goals]:

1. Support Member States preparedness to manage FMD emergencies
2. Reduce the FMD risk from the European neighborhood
3. Support the Global Strategy on FMD Control

There will be significant new activities under each Pillar, that will be developed by the Secretariat in close consultation with the Executive, the EC and the stakeholders and international partners relevant top those activities. In this work, and after implementation, it will be important to have

guidance and advice from leading European experts in the technical fields, not necessarily FMD experts but whose ideas and experience will be important to ensuring activities develop in ways that reflect best practice and effective use of partners and collaborators.

Research funding in Europe on FMD is also very limited in next 4 years – so we need to keep abreast of global research relevant to Europe (Pillar 1).

Expertise from the MS on economics, epidemiology and emergency management will also assist to steer the work programme thus lightening the load on the STC.

It is proposed that the Special Committee activities

- Are organized along the 3 Pillars of the programme, with one subgroup per Pillar for efficiency.
- Each subgroup would compile its own reports for the Secretariat for transmission to the STC and ExCom.
- The role of an overall Chairperson needs discussion, but should be aware of the work of the subgroups and the Chair joint meeting of the entire Committee

#### **Functions of the Special Committee to include:**

To provide

1. scientific and technical assessment of regular reports, or specific evaluations of programmes or projects, that are funded or supported by the Commission;
2. Scientific and technical assessment of proposals for research put forward for funding or support by the Commission.
3. Specific guidance relating to their expertise and the needs of the EuFMD programme, including considering scientific and technical issues suggested by the Executive, Standing Committee or others. [for example relating to the bio-containment standards and other technical guidance].

#### **Implementation and Reporting Relationships**

1. The Secretariat is responsible for implementing the biennial work programme agreed at Regular Sessions and the decisions of the Executive at their 6 monthly meetings.
2. The attendance of the Chairs of the STC and Special Committee at the ExCom Sessions will be subject to the decision of the Chairman of the ExCom. It is recommended that at least the Chair of the STC is invited to attend.
3. Meetings of the STC and Special Committee or their subgroups would be supported by the Secretariat, and the latter will provide information and progress reports for the Committees and their working groups.
4. It needs to be decided if the Chair of the Special Committee manages the reporting by the subgroups, or the Secretariat.
5. The STC would set the policies and procedures for the management of the Research Fund, including advice to the ExCom on whether the Special Committee has a role in reviewing proposals and outcomes, and in developing new studies (where potential conflicts of interest could occur).

6. The Secretariat remains responsible for managing and publishing the reports from the Committee meetings.
7. Given the complexity and breadth of the activities of the Commission, the Special Committee should comprise experts who are “practitioners” in their technical fields, thus able to review the activities and reports and provide advice to guide programme development. The STC , in terms of technical seniority and experience in FMD policy issues concerning MS, should retain the role of providing guidance to the Executive and the commissioning of research relevant to immediate policy issues.
8. The STC should receive all reports of the Special Committee and give guidance to the Executive on the need and priorities for decisions.

### **Possible Members**

The proposal is for 5 experts for each Pillar (total of 15 experts), plus each of the FAO Reference Centres in the European region would be invited, ex-officio, to the joint Committee meeting, as follows:

Kris de Clercq (FAO Ref Centre, VAR)

Emiliana Brocchi (FAO Ref Centre, IZSLER)

Jef Hammond (FAO-WRL)