

On the understandings to be reached with FAO and OIE

The following text has been developed by the Chairpersons of the Executive Committee in close consultation with the FAO Animal Health Service and in parallel to the drafting of the agreement with the OIE in order to maintain uniformity in substance. The version below was presented through the Secretariat of the EuFMD to the Legal Office of FAO for their review, in accordance with standard FAO procedures and Legal Framework concerning agreements between Article XIV bodies of FAO with FAO Departments. The position of the Legal Office of FAO on the document will be provided at, or before, the 40th Session.

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between EuFMD and FAO on the planning and coordination of activities carried out by EuFMD in areas outside the territories of its Members

The Executive Committee ("the Executive Committee") of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD), FAO and OIE compliment the EuFMD Secretariat (the Secretariat) for the amount and quality of work it has performed and the innovation it has developed over the years.

This work has not been limited to the implementation of disease prevention and control measures to protect EuFMD members ("the Members") from the incursion of FMD from south-east Europe, Transcaucasia and West-Eurasia, but occasionally also from risks to Members due to the FMD situation in more distant areas.

The Secretariat is also a driving force in engaging FMD experts in research projects and developing collaboration between OIE and FAO reference laboratories and centres within a functional network.

However, its most commended achievement is the outstanding contribution to the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD, which was developed in close cooperation with EMPRES/AGAH of FAO and OIE.

Moreover, EuFMD is recognized as a valuable Commission under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and countries in other regions of the globe have requested its assistance and services on numerous occasions.

However, the available human and financial resources require EuFMD to focus on the objectives established by its Constitution, i.e. "to promote national and international action with respect to preventive and control measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Europe", to which its Members have agreed.

Notwithstanding the necessary prioritisation of activities, and in line with the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) mechanism and the agreements with the regional and global GF-TADs Steering Committees, EuFMD and in particular its Executive Committee are committed to the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy as presented at the FAO/OIE Global FMD Conference in Bangkok in 2012.

Following the 84th Executive Committee meeting in October 2012, and in consultation with FAO and OIE during the 85th Executive Committee meeting in February 2013, the Executive Committee and FAO agreed that the work of EuFMD shall be managed as follows:

I. General remarks

- 1) A multiannual work programme shall be prepared by the Secretariat for approval by Members at the General Session.
- 2) The multiannual programme shall be linked to the agreement concluded for a period of 4 years between the European Commission (EC) and FAO on the use of the EU-Trust Fund and will be in line with the FAO/OIE FMD Global Control Strategy.

- 3) To prepare the multiannual programme, the Secretariat will seek as appropriate inputs and feedback on planned activities from the FAO FMD-unit, the FAO/OIE GF-TADs FMD Working Group and the Global Secretariat of GF-TADs.
- 4) A 24-month work and budget plan is to be prepared by the Secretariat and presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee to the regular General Session for approval. This plan shall detail for the two consecutive 12-month periods the activities with their corresponding time lines (GANTT chart), which are to be reviewed and updated, if needed, during the regular meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5) The assessment of performance and work load of the Secretary and associated staff should comply with the FAO Performance Evaluation Management System (PEMS) and should be carried out annually by FAO with inputs of the Executive Committee before its regular meeting in the first semester of the year. The final assessment shall be agreed between FAO AGAH Chief, the Chairman of EuFMD and EC.

II. Content and geographical scope of the EuFMD work program

- 6) The Secretary of EuFMD manages the Secretariat and associated staff for the effective implementation of a multifaceted programme funded by contributions from Members, the EU-Trust Fund, and, other donors.
- 7) The activities of EuFMD shall be focused on three strategic pillars determined by Members and implemented for their benefit:
 - (a) Improve readiness for FMD crisis management by the Members,
 - (b) Reduce the risk of FMD to the Members from the European neighbourhood (assistance in the application of progressive control in neighbouring regions); and
 - (c) Promote the PCP, including financial support to the WRL (Pirbright Institute, UK).
- 8) EuFMD contributes to the global understanding of FMD and provides information on its assessment of risks to the European neighbourhood arising from the circulation of different FMD viruses. To this end, EuFMD produces reports for its Members and makes recommendations on vaccine strains for the national and EU antigen and vaccine banks.

It may contribute to information on FMD which is made available through EMPRES-Animal Health and to reports compiled under the technical leadership of EMPRES-Animal Health on monitoring the Global FMD situation. FAO will ensure that the inputs of EuFMD and the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network are adequately acknowledged.
- 9) The neighbourhood of the current 36 Members is defined as follows:
 - (a) European Member Nations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and member countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe which are eligible for membership in EuFMD;
 - (b) the countries and territories adjacent to members.;
 - (c) the countries in North Africa cooperating with Members in the framework of REMESA
- 10) EuFMD - activities in the above areas shall be coherent with GF-TADs regional plans and regional networks (i.e. REMESA, West-Eurasia Roadmap, South-East Mediterranean platform) and shall be carried out in consultations with the GF-TADs Management Committee to ensure that all relevant parties of a region are informed and involved in these actions. Information sharing will be reciprocal between FAO and EuFMD. Regarding North Africa, EuFMD activities will be defined in the framework of REMESA.
- 11) EuFMD may assist by mutual agreement the technical activities carried out by the EMPRES-Animal Health FMD unit in FMD endemic areas outside the neighbourhood defined in point 9;
- 12) EuFMD undertakes to share with the Global Secretariat of GF-TADs (secretariat-GF-TADS@fao.org), the Chief AGAH and the head of EMPRES-Animal Health any relevant information received (disease information, project reports and requests for assistance) to ensure that such information can be included in the programming by the EMPRES-Animal Health FMD Unit of activities related to the prevention, early warning and forecasting of FMD related events.

- 13) In addition, should EMPRES-Animal Health FMD Unit related activities require EuFMD collaboration or direct EuFMD intervention in countries outside of the European neighbourhood as defined in point 9, those activities shall be cleared in advance by the Chairman of EuFMD, where necessary with EC, and the Chief AGAH, and shall be carried out within the framework of GF-TADs (i.e., GF-TADs Management Committee).
- 14) Without prejudice to emergencies referred to in Section III, EuFMD involvement in activities outside its programme and geographical scope must and should be of benefit to its Members as regards prevention and reduction of risks and shall be cost effective. Cost recovery for such inputs would require previous agreement with the Executive Committee.

III. Activities in emergency situations

- 15.) Where the epidemiological situation so warrants, in particular where new FMD virus strains have been introduced into the European neighbourhood, EuFMD shall inform the Global Secretariat of GF-TADs, the Chief AGAH and the regional FAO offices of any emergency activities it plans to carry out. Those activities shall not commence on-the-spot until approved by the GF-TADs Management Committee and the Executive Committee.
16. Should an emergent situation arise that requires immediate decisions for intervention or other actions (i.e., mission or vaccine procurement) the lead operators of the GF-TADs Management Committee would consult by teleconference and are powered to request assistance from EuFMD and its personnel, if needed.
17. Where the EC requests EuFMD to use the EU-Trust Fund in order to carry out activities in areas outside the European neighbourhood in response to the epidemiological situation or the request of a country situated outside that neighbourhood, the Secretariat shall inform and obtain agreement of the GF-TADs Management Committee and where appropriate assist on request the EC to coordinate with GF-TADs.
18. The Executive Committee reserves its right to respond in a flexible way to changing epidemiological circumstances of FMD across endemic areas by adapting its programming of activities aimed at protecting Members. Where emergencies require activities outside the European neighbourhood they will be carried out after consultation with the OIE and FAO (e.g. emergency meetings, teleconference, or other).

IV. EuFMD and the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP)

- 19) EuFMD has been a key player for the continuous technical development of the PCP-concept and is prepared to support the global GF-TADs FMD Working Group by maintaining and reviewing the technical documents.
- 20) EuFMD may support relevant training programs on the application of the PCP at national or regional level by providing human resources and the expertise of the Secretariat to FAO and OIE. EuFMD is not institutionally responsible for the development of regional PCP roadmaps with the exception of those involving member states and shall not be engaged in the evaluation of the PCP-Status of countries outside its Membership.

V. Final Remark

The Executive Committee constantly monitors that the activities carried out by EuFMD through its Secretariat are in accordance with its Constitution.

The Memorandum of Understanding does in no way supersede Article IV (9) allowing EuFMD to enter into arrangements, through the Director-General of the Organization, with other organizations, regional groups or with Nations not Members of the Commission, for participation in the work of the Commission or its committees, or for mutual assistance on problems of controlling foot-and-mouth disease.

FAO shall communicate any issues it has with the activities carried out by EuFMD by submitting to the Chairman of the Executive Committee a comment paper for distribution to the members of that Executive Committee.

This MoU shall be reviewed not later than 24 months after the date of its application.