

Recommendations of the 40th General Session of the EuFMD

Considering

1. The enormous potential economic consequences of even single FMD outbreaks in FMD free countries;
2. The extent and impact of the FMD epidemics in West Eurasia in 2011-12 and of the incursions of African serotypes of FMDV into parts of North Africa in 2012;
3. The uncertain environment for FMD prevention and management in parts of the Middle-East and North Africa, as a result of political developments and their impact upon the trans-border movements of people and animals;
4. The progress made to implement the West Eurasia Roadmap for FMD control and the need for benefit/cost assessments for further investments in FMD prevention and control;
5. The importance of managing the risk associated with working with samples or other materials containing foot-and-mouth disease virus;
6. The high level of progress made in implementation of the EuFMD four-year Strategy Plan adopted at the 38th General Session of the EuFMD commission;
7. The economic constraints affecting Member States and the advantages of working with other regions and countries which face similar challenges with FMD prevention and control; in addition to the benefits of mutual activities in training, research and development of greater capacity for emergency management;
8. The role of the EuFMD in the development and continual refinement, with FAO and OIE, of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD, and the contribution of the PCP to the development of sustainable national FMD control strategies for FMD;
9. The launch of the Global Strategy for FMD Control by FAO and OIE at the Bangkok Conference in 2012;
10. The need for socio-economics to be utilised in the evaluation of national strategies for prevention and control of FMD, at all stages of the PCP and in assessment of control options for incursions in free countries;
11. The changing global landscape for animal production, movement and trade, and the need for technical strategic guidance to the EuFMD Commission, its members and the international organizations, on issues and gaps that affect progress in FMD risk management;
12. The economic benefits, short and long term, of the development of new tools for FMD control and the vital importance of continuing with co-ordinated research programs on FMD in Europe.

Welcomes

1. The acceptance of the Constitution of the EuFMD by Georgia and the commitment shown by this means to the national control of foot-and-mouth disease, which will contribute to the European roadmap towards FMD freedom;
2. The offer of Croatia to host the Open Session of the Standing Technical Committee of the EuFMD at Dubrovnik in 2014.

Acknowledges

1. The support of the European Commission (DG-SANCO) for the work programme of the previous four-year Strategic Plan and the excellent working arrangements that have resulted in efficient and timely emergency responses to situations arising in the European neighbourhood, and

welcomes the indications of support for the new EuFMD Strategic Plan as presented at the 40th General Session of the EuFMD.

Recognizes

1. The substantial achievements of the work programme implemented over the past biennium by the Secretariat and funded by the EC programme, especially as Secretariat to the West Eurasia Roadmap and in associated programmes of work, and *inter alia* in the excellence of the training programmes, the efficient delivery of emergency assistance to countries during the FMD crises in the past two years, and in the contribution of expertise to the international uptake of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP);
2. The importance of reaching an understanding with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and with FAO on matters relating to the programme of the EuFMD in countries which are not members of the Commission.

Agrees

1. The “Minimum Biorisk Management Standards for Laboratories working with foot-and-mouth disease virus, Sections I and II” as presented as paper GS40/4.2bis, as a replacement for the Standard adopted in 2009 at the 38th General Session of the EuFMD;
2. The four-year Strategic Plan (from today(2013) until 42nd GS(2017)) for the EuFMD Commission, as proposed in Item 8;
3. The work plan for the biennium, as proposed in Item 8, with the exception of the duties of the Secretariat of the West Eurasia Roadmap;
4. The proposed Administrative budget for the Commission for the period to the end of 2015;
5. The Terms of Reference for the Standing Technical Committee and Special Committee for Research, and the list of experts for each Committee for the two years until the next General Session of .

Recommends

1. That the Executive Committee develop a resource mobilisation strategy to ensure operational funds are found to adequately support the Work Plan 2013-16, including exploring options for cost sharing or establishing programmes of mutual interest with non-members and others;
2. That the scale of contributions of Member States be reviewed, with a view to presenting a revised set of categories in 2015;
3. That GfTADs Europe consider the need to support annual West Eurasia Roadmap meetings, including the use of the PCP to assess the progress of participating countries, as part of the regional strategy for the control of FMD.

Calls upon

1. FAO, OIE and countries in the Roadmap advisory group, to ensure that every effort is given to the successful continuation of the West Eurasia Roadmap and progress towards its vision of a region free of clinical FMD by 2020;
2. Research funding bodies, including the European Commission (EC), to ensure continuity in funding for co-ordinated research programmes on FMD, in response to the greater international risk and the transformative potential of the Global Strategy for FMD Control.