



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



European  
Commission



## 42<sup>nd</sup> General Session of the EuFMD

# Technical Committees and their functions in the upcoming biennium

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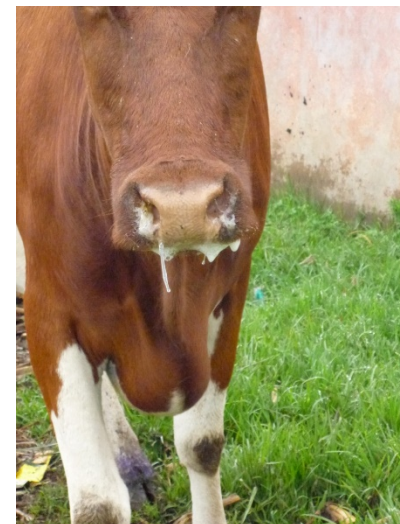
*Chair, Standing Technical Committee*

*Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, Ireland*



# Technical committees – how do they help EuFMD CVOs?

- Address specific areas requiring attention
- Provide a way for experts to develop advice and recommendations
- These outputs can be used to inform EuFMD policies and programmes
- They mitigate the risk of significant issues being overlooked and help EuFMD actions stay relevant and effective





## Context of proposal

- Clear need to provide support to those engaged in biorisk management, particularly in high containment laboratories
- FVO inspections of tier D labs (which handle infectious FMDV) require a pool of experts to accompany audit missions
- Provision of training and advice to tier C (NRLs which don't routinely handle infectious FMDV) and D labs can reduce the likelihood of a problem, mitigate any risks and improve audit outcomes
- BRM committee is ideally placed to provide such training and support – but lacks the organisational structure necessary



# Issues related to BioRisk Management

- Need to maintain and update the minimum standards
- Need for expert advice in this highly technical area to be available to the member states and ExCom
- Need for experts to be available for inspections and audits
- Need to support BRM in labs in EuFMD MS which do not have FMD-free status (Turkey, Israel, Georgia)





# Proposal

- Establish at the General Session a *Special Committee for BioRisk Management*

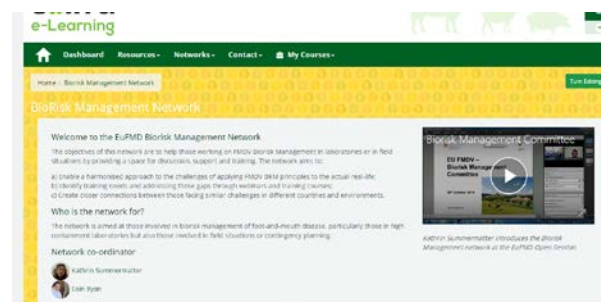
## ToRs:

1. To provide guidance to the Executive Committee and Commission on the revision and further development of guidance documents, including the Minimum Standards, for laboratory biocontainment of foot-and-mouth disease virus
2. To develop guidance, on request of member states, the Executive or Standing Technical Committee, on technical issues relating to the application of the guidance documents, including the Minimum Standards
3. To provide guidance on training and support needs of the FMD Biorisk management community and provide assistance to training initiatives of the Commission in this field.
4. Maintain an overview of development in biocontainment and improve the communication of relevant developments to the experts in the member states who have FMDV Biorisk management responsibilities.



# Special Committee on BioRisk Management

- BioRisk Management Network: NRL biorisk manager from each EuFMD MS to be invited to participate in any webinars, discussion forums, etc



- Special Committee on BioRisk Management: membership based on expertise
- Members from tier D labs (routinely handle infectious FMDV) plus from other labs, including from MS which are not yet FMD-free
- Budgetary support is required: component 1.5





## How will these committees work together to help EuFMD CVOs better understand risks and make policy choices?

Special committee on research and programme development:

Technical experts from a range of areas; will provide feedback on new threats and new developments through working groups, webinars, TCs, etc

Special committee on biorisk management:

BRM experts, focussed on standards and training

Standing technical committee:

Identify areas of policy concern, establish WGs on issues, evaluate policy implications of special committee findings, report to Executive Committee





## Thank you – any questions?



### Biorisk Management in Action!

