

West Eurasia region free of clinical FMD by 2025?

6th Regional West Eurasia Meeting

The 6th Regional Meeting to review the progress of the West Eurasia Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Roadmap was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 28-30 April, 2015. It was held in the framework of the FAO-OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), with the collaboration and support of the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD), the Kazakhstan government and the OIE sub-regional Unit Office for FMD in Central Asia in charge of the local organization. The meeting was attended by 13 of the 14 countries who are members of the West Eurasia FMD Roadmap (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Syria and Turkmenistan). The Russian Federation attended the meeting as an Observer, as well as representatives from donor organizations and private firms.

The West Eurasia Regional Roadmap was launched in 2008 in Shiraz (Iran) and followed by meetings in Istanbul 2009, 2010, 2012; Baku 2013 and Astana 2014. The main goals of these meetings remain constant over the years: share information on FMD virus circulation in the region, and assess and assist the progress of the countries towards the vision of “West Eurasia region free of clinical FMD by 2025”. During this meeting, these goals were accomplished by sharing of information through surveys submitted by the countries, country progress reports as well as active discussions between representatives of OIE, FAO and EuFMD, participants and newly selected WELNET and Epi network members. Participants expressed interest and appreciation of the West Eurasia webinar series and online FMD Emergency Preparation course in Russian provided by EuFMD. One of the impacts of these training activities was the participation in the meeting of the representatives of Veterinary Chamber of Kyrgyz Republic and their request to EuFMD for assistance and support to organize national webinars in the Kyrgyz language.

Some countries, such as Kazakhstan, reported considerable progress towards the control of FMD, as they have recently submitted a dossier to the OIE for recognition of an FMD-free zone without vaccination. Georgia and Pakistan have had their status of Progressive Control Pathway (PCP-FMD) Stage 2 confirmed by submitting a revised risk-based strategic plan for FMD control. However, notwithstanding these achievements, there is a clear need in further active assistance to the countries in preparation of national control programmes, planning preventive measures in 2015-2016 and continuous knowledge improvement by provision of real time and online training programmes

