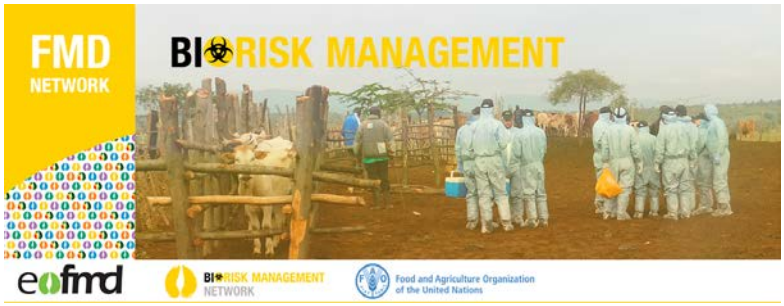
ITEM 13 On the Standing Technical and Special Committees

Biorisk management

Item on the Standing Technical and Special Committees



Proposal to the 93rd Session of the Executive Committee

1. To adopt the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the **Special Committee for Biorisk Management**, as proposed by the Executive (Report of the 93rd Session);
2. To consider, particularly "Brexit", if the need for laboratory networking between EU and non-EU member states should be addressed through adding this function under the TORs of the **Biorisk Management** or as a revision to those of the **Special Committee for Research and Programme Development (SCRPD)**, or through a **Temporary Committee** basis.

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.

Current position

Since 2013, the EuFMD has

- A Standing Technical Committee (4 persons);
- A Special Committee for Research and Programme Development (SCRPD), of 13 persons plus a place each for the **FOUR** FAO/OIE Reference Centres on FMD located in EuFMD MS.

The second is arguably too costly in terms of the numbers involved in regular meetings and diversity of expertise. This latter undoubtedly assists in other ways, through provision of expertise for EuFMD activities and training of the member states.

Concerns to be addressed

1. Relating to FMD Biorisk management:

    a. "*The maintenance and promotion of appropriate biocontainment standards, and training in these, for handling of materials containing foot-and-mouth disease virus by Members*": is a Special Function of the Commission (Art V, para 2.4) and thus requires a process and capacity to be in place;
    b. The need of the Executive Committee and Member States, to receive specific guidance on technical issues in FMD Biorisk management, particularly relating to laboratory biocontainment of FMD virus;
    c. The need of the Standing Technical Committee and the Secretariat to receive guidance on the revision of the normative texts relating to the *Minimum Standards for Laboratory Containment of Foot-and-Mouth Disease virus;*
    d. The need for a sufficient cadre of expertise in the member states in the laboratory containment and Biorisk management of FMD virus, able to provide such expertise to the member states and to DG-SANTE in order to support the application and maintenance of the containment standards and assist to communicate best practises in Biorisk management.

2. Relating to the networking of (EuFMD "Tier D") laboratories handling FMDV in Europe, for diagnostic, research and vaccine production, and those "Tier C" laboratories expected to manage diagnostic capacity for FMD confirmation:

    a. The need for training relating to Biorisk management;
    b. The need for maintaining awareness of FMD risks relevant to diagnosis;
    c. The need for network capacity to provide "crisis support" arrangements in case of temporary over demand or loss of critical facilities.

3. The need to ensure the future EU27 laboratories and the future NRLs in non-EU countries maintain a close working relationship on the above.

Proposal for change in 2017 to the Special Committees of the EuFMD

1. The 40th Session in 2013 agreed the Terms of Reference for the Special Committee for Research and Programme Development , as follows

    To provide

    a. *scientific and technical assessment of regular reports, or specific evaluations of programmes or projects, that are funded or supported by the Commission;*
    b. *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 biocontainment standards and other technical guidance****.*

2. Since 2009, several ad hoc group meetings have been held under the Standing Technical Committee, relating to the laboratory Biorisk management standards. The Chair of this group was Dr Bernd Haas, and since his passing, the Executive Committee at the 92nd Session agreed upon the need to strengthen the

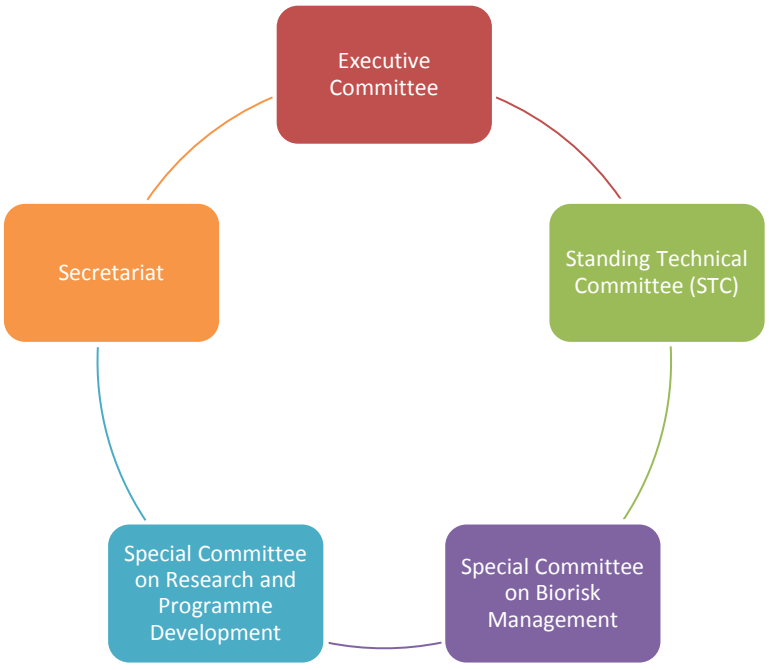
provision of laboratory Biorisk management guidance and to place a programme of work in this area into the regular programme of the Commission.

3. In 2016, the EuFMD Biorisk management group have met by online meetings and with an evident high participation by experts from laboratories handling live FMDV in the member states. These meetings confirmed the need for such experts for regular opportunity to discuss technical and organisational Biorisk management of FMDV.

4. A **Special Committee for Biorisk Management** is therefore proposed, to be given its own dedicated support in the biennium workplan, with TOR as follows;

To:

1. *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. *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. *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.*
5. In keeping with Art VII (of the Constitution), the Chairperson of the Committee would be elected by the members of the Committee, and the Rules of Procedure of the EuFMD (as revised at the 41st Session) would apply to its Sessions.
6. The programme of work of the Special Committee will be proposed at the 42nd Session, and thereafter at the regular biennial Sessions. Additional items may be proposed on request of the Executive or the Standing Technical Committees, and undertaken subject to resources being made available.
7. A summary of the relationships proposed are shown below; the Executive Chairpersons would work mainly with the STC and Secretariat; the Special Committees would be supported by the Secretariat and provide reports on its meetings or positions to the ExCom through the STC.



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 six-monthly meetings.
2. The attendance of the Chairs of the STC and Special Committees 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 Secretariat remains responsible for managing and publishing the reports from the Committee meetings.
6. 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 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 Biorisk management issues.
7. 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, based on their expertise in high containment laboratory Biorisk management

Kathrin Summermatter, IVI (current Leader of the EuFMD BRM group)
Kirsten Tjornehoj, Denmark: Kitj@vet.dtu.dk
Douwe Kuperus, Netherlands: Douwe.Kuperus@wur.nl
Ulrika Allard, Sweden: ulrika.allard@sva.se
David Solanes, Spain: david.solanes@cresa.uab.cat and
Gonzalo Pascual, Spain: gpascual666@gmail.com
Sharon Webster, UK: sharon.webster@pirbright.ac.uk
Jens Teifke, Germany: Jens.Teifke@fli.de
Cesare Berneri, Italy: cesare.berneri@izsler.it