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REPORT
of the
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION
of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE
held in
Toledo, Spain
16-18 February 1993

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 1993

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Introduction

The Executive Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EUFMD) held its Fifty-fifth Session at the Consejería de Agricultura de la Comunidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo, Spain, from 16 to 18 February 1993.

Members of the Committee present:

Dr. E. Stougaard, Denmark	Chairman
Dr. P. Gafner, Switzerland	Vice-Chairman
Dr. Quintiliano Perez Bonilla, Spain	
Dr. G. Bédès, France	
Dr. K. Meldrum, United Kingdom	
Dr. B. Nordblom, Sweden	

Dr. E. Istanbuluoglu, Turkey, informed the Committee that he was unable to attend.

Observers

Dr. A. Donaldson, United Kingdom, Chairman of the Research Group of the EUFMD

FAO

Dr. Y. Cheneau
Chief, Animal Health Service
Animal Production and Health Division

EC

Dr. B. Marchant
Directorate General of Agriculture
Commission of the European Community
Brussels, Belgium

Secretariat

Dr. P. Stouraitis
Secretary, EUFMD
Animal Production and Health Division, FAO

Ms. J. Raftery
Administrative Assistant, EUFMD
Animal Production and Health Division, FAO

Specialists from Spain, attending in an observer capacity, were: Dr. Fernando Tovar Hernandez, Subdirector General Adjunto de Sanidad Animal, and Dr. José Luis Ladero, Jefe, Servicio de Epidemiología, Dirección General de Sanidad de la Producción Agraria,

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, Madrid, and from the Consejería de Agricultura de la Comunidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo: Dr. Juan Casado, Jefe, Servicio de Ganadería, Dr. Juan Manuel Suaret, Jefe, Sección Sanidad Animal, and Dr. Pilar Gil, Jefe, Sección Medios y Laboratorias.

Before the Session was opened by the Chairman, the Delegate from Spain, Dr. Quintiliano Perez Bonilla, introduced Dr. Don Antonio Salinas, Director General de Ordenación Agraria de Castilla la Mancha (la Región), who, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, welcomed the delegates and observers to Spain. He said he was particularly happy that the Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Committee was being held in Toledo at the new premises of the Consejería; it was in fact the first meeting to be held in the Consejería's meeting room. He briefly outlined the characteristics of the region of La Mancha which covers 35,000 km², its agrarian sector, and the reforms which had been introduced since Spain became a member of the Community. He mentioned the importance of this region which represents 8% of the world's viticultural area, with 300,000 hectares of olive groves, its world renowned production of Manchego cheese, and its highly industrialized ham processing industry. Before concluding, he wished the Committee very fruitful and useful discussions.

Dr. E. Stougaard, Chairman, thanked Dr Don Antonio Salinas for his very warm welcome and stated that the Committee was very pleased to hold this, their Fifty-fifth Session, in Toledo. Following a brief description of the activities of the Commission since its establishment in 1954, the Chairman stated that all of Europe was now free from foot-and-mouth disease and that as of 1 January 1992, EC had banned vaccination. He said that the disease-free status now enjoyed by Europe was largely due to the work of the Commission and the efforts of its member countries. He expressed the wish that the Commission, which until 1 January 1993 had 28 member countries and, following recent political developments, now had 26, would soon again enjoy full membership through the adherence of all European countries. He underlined the importance of this Session of the Executive Committee during which the future of the Commission would be discussed. He then welcomed the observers from FAO, EC, and Spain.

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of Agenda

The following agenda was presented:

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Report on the Commission's activities during 1991-92
3. FMD situation in Europe and in other regions during 1991-92
4. (a) FMD prophylaxis in Europe
(b) Vaccination programme
5. (a) Activities of the Research Group
(b) Review of Commission recommendations:-
 - (i) -National Contingency Plans
 - (ii) -Security Standards for FMD Laboratories
 - (iii) -Minimum Conditions for the Importation into Europe of Live Animals, Fresh Meat and Offal of the Bovine Species
6. Second phase of the buffer zone project in Turkey

7. Future of the Commission
8. Financial report:- TF904200: breakdown of expenditure 1991/1992 proposed budget 1993
TF911100/TF909700: accounts for 1991/1991, proposed budgets for 1993
9. Adoption of draft Report
10. Any other business

Following adoption of the Agenda, the Chairman proposed that **Item 7 - Future of the Commission** should be the first item for discussion. The Committee agreed.

Agenda Item 7 - Future of the Commission

In introducing this item of the Agenda, the Chairman briefly recalled the discussions which had taken place in Rome with the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division and the Chief of the Animal Health Service, and in Istanbul at the ad hoc meeting of the Executive Committee on the occasion of the OIE Regional Conference for Europe, held in September 1992.

He also drew the Committee's attention to the discussions which had taken place at the Fifty-fourth Session of the Executive Committee held in Pirbright, UK, from 7 to 9 April 1992, during which the Delegate from UK had agreed to prepare a discussion paper outlining proposals for the future of the Commission. One of the proposals had been that the Commission be transferred to the World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright, where all the services were available to provide the necessary backup for the Commission's activities. In addition, it was considered that this would represent a considerable decrease in the running costs of the Commission, an essential factor in favour of considering its continuation for a further four to six years.

On examination of the discussion paper prepared by UK, Legal Counsel, FAO, had advised that it would not be possible to transfer the Commission to Pirbright, since it had been set up under Article XIV of the Organization's Constitution, which covered International Agreements. If its international status were to be retained, transfer to Pirbright would be precluded.

Before inviting Delegates to make proposals, the Chairman stated that it was important for the Committee to be in agreement about the future of the Commission before the close of this its Fifty-fifth Session. This would give him the necessary mandate to present the Committee's views for discussion at and adoption by the Thirtieth Session of the Commission to be held in Rome from 27 to 30 April 1993.

The Secretary, Dr. P. Stouraitis, outlined the highlights of the Commission's achievements since its establishment in 1954, (Agenda Item 2) and stated that the Committee, bearing in mind the present disease-free situation in Europe and the necessity to assess the risk factor for the future, should be aware that the successful control and eradication of FMD in Europe has been largely due to the joint efforts and common objectives of the countries which had agreed to undertake this task.

The Chairman then invited the Committee to openly present their views. He referred to the discussion paper which had been circulated to all members of the Group in which various alternatives for the future of the Commission had been put forward. He informed the Committee that the various proposals put forward in the discussion paper would not call for change in the Constitution. He also pointed out that the Constitution did not stipulate the number of staff which should make up the Secretariat. It was essential, *inter alia*, to decide whether or not to appoint a new Secretary on the retirement of Dr. Stouraitis in May 1993.

He drew attention to the new objectives as outlined in the discussion paper -

- to establish effective surveillance and monitoring of the FMD situation in collaboration with surrounding countries (a more active role than the information gathering and dissemination exercise currently performed by OIE).
- to encourage the development and implementation of policies and strategies to ensure a prompt and effective response to outbreaks of FMD in these countries. Any action proposed outside the territories of member countries would have to be funded separately.

The Committee expressed support for the continuation of the existing Commission and discussed the new objectives outlined in the discussion paper. The following points emerged:

Members agreed that it was essential to maintain the Commission for some years to come. Many countries surrounding Europe were still experiencing problems and there was a real risk of reinfection on the European Continent following the discontinuation of routine vaccination, as a result of which all farm livestock are fully susceptible, and the liberalisation of trade in animals and animal products.

The Delegate of Spain referred to the situation in the MAGREB countries and stated that there was a need for the Commission to set up an 'alarm network' in Europe. He stated that in view of its international status, and for practical reasons, the Commission should continue its activities under the aegis of FAO for at least four to five years, and should preserve its independence.

The Delegate of Sweden supported the proposal to continue the Commission but stated that his Government would like to see a reduction in costs. One way of achieving this, he stated, would be to increase the importance of the role of the Chairman and not to appoint a new Secretary. In addition, he emphasised the importance of cooperation with the WRL, the EC and FAO.

The Delegate of Switzerland supported the idea of maintaining the Commission and stated that the valuable knowledge and experience which had been acquired over the years should not be lost. The Commission, he stated, should be in a position to react flexibly to a new threat of FMD and the keyword for the future should be **risk assessment**.

The observer from the EC expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend this very important Session of the Committee. In commenting on the objectives outlined in the

discussion paper, he expressed concern regarding the overlapping of activities between the EC and the Commission. As the EC gradually expands, there may be less and less need for separate organizations. However, he believed there was a need for the continuation of the FMD Commission for the time being at least. To influence countries beyond the European borders, it would be necessary to have funds; the Commission might not be in a position to make a significant impact. With regard to the objectives as outlined, he emphasized two points to be borne in mind:

- (i) to improve and increase surveillance throughout the world, and the dissemination of information to member countries
- (ii) to coordinate the activities, outside the EC territory in case of an outbreak; for this it would be necessary to request the assistance of the FMD Commission.

Referring to the alternatives contained in the discussion paper, he stated that they should include more specific objectives and, in particular, a definition of the aims of the Commission.

The Chairman, in commenting on the difference in roles between the EC and the Commission, stated that this lay essentially in the importance given by the EC to trade.

The Delegate of France expressed concern about the situation in Europe following the discontinuation of vaccination. He briefly outlined the serious problems encountered in France due to the lack of information about the real FMD situation in the MAGREB countries. He was in favour of better financing of the WRL by the international community, the continuation of research, the evaluation of the risk attached to animal movements and greater attention being given to all factors related to the control of FMD. He supported the continuation of the Commission within the framework of FAO for at least four to five years and stated that, while the importance of the achievements to date must not be forgotten, the Commission should continue its activities in a more dynamic form.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the document on the global approach of FAO to FMD which had been circulated to members by the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division. He invited the observer from FAO to present his views.

On behalf of the Organization, the FAO observer, Dr. Y. Cheneau, Chief of the Animal Health Service, expressed his appreciation to the Committee for having taken account of the views of the Organization in the draft document under discussion, which had been prepared by Dr. K.C. Taylor. He stated that the purpose of the document prepared by the Animal Health Service and circulated to the Delegates by the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division was to inform the Committee of the Organization's global approach to FMD.

In commenting on the need to reduce the operational costs of the Commission, Dr. Cheneau briefly outlined the financial regulations of the Organization which are governed and decided by the FAO Council and Conference. Any higher input on the part of the

Organization to the operational costs of the Commission would be subject to the authority and approval of the governing bodies of FAO.

Regarding the Commission's desire to reduce costs, he stated that an analysis of the budget would clearly show that the proposed reductions would not produce significant savings unless the personnel costs are reduced. What would be the purpose of placing the savings deriving from a reduction in staff costs (approx. 50%) in a reserve account without defining the objectives of such an account?

FAO, Dr. Cheneau stated, is very conscious of the role of the Commission and strongly supports its continuation. With regard to cost sharing, the Regular Programme already provides 25% of costs through hosting the Commission; this should be taken into account in any discussion on an increased contribution by FAO. A table showing the figures was distributed to the Delegates. As regards the point raised by one of the Delegates regarding increasing the importance of the role of the Chairman, Dr. Cheneau pointed out that the Constitution of the Commission clearly indicates that the role of Technical Secretary is partly administrative. This point, he felt, should be considered if the Commission envisages continuing as in the past.

The Delegate of UK wished to see more emphasis being placed on cost-effective time, particularly the Commission's time. It was essential, therefore, that time, i.e. the duration of meetings, be reduced.

The Chairman referred to the indirect costs as shown in the Table presented by Dr. Cheneau and remarked that the substantial input by the Organization in terms of premises/publication costs etc was offset by the advantages to the Organization represented by missions of the Secretary and scientific advice through the Research Group.

In addition, it was considered that the annual contributions to the Regular Programme by the Organization's member countries, among which all members of this Commission are represented, should at least in part cover the overhead costs related to publications etc. In this context, the Chairman suggested that in future publications and working papers of the Commission should be cut drastically with the exception of the Report of the Research Group which is a very valuable document, (printed in English only and consequently publication costs are minimal).

The observer from the EC suggested that any decision or recommendation made by the Committee at this Session should give due consideration to the importance of (a) dissemination of information on FMD (b) the necessity of having a structure to deal with FMD outbreaks, (c) the necessity to continue research initiatives. He was strongly of the opinion that FAO should remain as the structure to implement the objectives of the Commission.

As regards staffing and administration, the Committee considered that some changes might be necessary, particularly in view of the fact that the work was becoming more and more administrative, with a clear reduction in the technical activities of the secretariat.

Following an exchange of views between the Delegates, it was the considered view of the majority of the Committee that, at least in the immediate future, the Commission could proceed as follows:

- i- continue to provide administrative support, with the Chairman directing the activities
- ii- contract institutes/organizations as consultants to carry out missions/scientific work as required, it being understood that the Commission would pay for missions of FAO experts when specifically carried out in the field of FMD in pursuance of the objectives of the Commission
- iii- continue the activities of the Research Group and where possible arrange for joint EC/EUFMD Research Group meetings to maintain research activities

It was considered that the WRL could collect information, provide annual newsletters and generally ensure dissemination of information.

- iv- the duties of the Secretary's post would be contracted out to individual experts.
- v- the administrative assistant would continue to handle administrative tasks through FAO and under the guidance of the Chairman

The Secretary drew the Committee's attention to the difficulties involved in proceeding in this way. The Chairman pointed out that rules must be flexible and that it should be possible to buy services from institutes, and confine travel to Europe, the MAGREB countries, and south eastern Europe.

In the ensuing discussion, it was agreed, inter alia, that the General Session which should be shortened to three days and should be convened in Rome, the Research Group should continue for the next few years, and, where possible, arrange joint meetings with the FMD Sub-group of the Scientific Veterinary Committee of the EC.

The Delegate of France warned the Committee to reflect on the importance of the decisions about to be taken, in particular with regard to the development of the vaccine banks, the research problems, and the evaluation of the veterinary infrastructures of the member countries in the light of the present situation. He reiterated the need to retain the valuable contacts established over the years.

The Committee were concerned that any new structure would require a detailed implementation plan to bring about a smooth transition and to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Commission were met.

Following an in-depth discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of adopting a number of differing solutions, and having duly examined the discussion paper in all its aspects, the Chairman requested the Committee to express their agreement on the following proposal for submission to and adoption by the Thirtieth General Session:

The Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Committee held in Toledo, Spain, from 16 to 18 February 1993, having discussed and examined the discussion paper on the future of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Agenda Item 7), hereby submit the following recommendations for approval and adoption by the Thirtieth General Session:

- the Commission should continue in being, operating under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution,
- the new objectives set out in the discussion paper should be adopted, together with a new objective on the need for the continuation of the Research Group,
- meetings of the General Session should continue to be held biennially in Rome, but should in future be as short as possible consistent with the agenda to be discussed: it is anticipated that under normal circumstances a maximum of three days will suffice,
- the Executive Committee should continue to have eight members and contain members from different areas.
- the Research Group should continue to meet regularly
- the services of the administrative assistant should be retained and this post should remain within the Animal Health Service of the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO
- scientific/technical work should be contracted out to the WRL, UK, to the EC, FAO, and other institutes/bodies, as required, on the basis that the full time services of a Secretary are no longer required given the present FMD disease-free situation in Europe.
- a consultant should be employed on a part-time basis approximately (twenty) days per year. This consultant will act as a liaison officer to coordinate the activities of the bodies contracted under the previous para. and to provide a link between those bodies and the Chairman and the Executive Committee.
- that, assuming agreement to reduce the size of the administrative budget, members be asked to maintain payments at existing levels for two years in order to establish a reserve fund to deal with unforeseen circumstances and to overcome the existing operational deficit.

The Committee agreed that the paper prepared by Dr. Taylor should be amended for circulation to the member countries prior to the General Session and should include the amended objectives together with aims for the continuation of the Commission. It should also include options as to how technical advice to the Commission could be provided.

The **Delegate of France** commented that the issues were complex but on balance he had considered that the Secretary's post should be retained in view of the importance of the Commission for operational matters and the need to keep Europe free from FMD.

The **Delegate of Spain** expressed the view that it is essential to maintain a Technical Secretary : (i) to maintain the independence and identity of the European Commission for the Control of FMD as a separate body, distinct from any other international body working in this field, (ii) to provide a management role in the Group i.e. in the Commission, (iii) to be responsible for the coordination of all the activities of the Commission i.e., scientific, technical, administrative, economic, political etc, related to the functioning of the Commission, and (iv) to be absolutely independent of any international organization, being responsible to and depending exclusively on the Executive Committee and the Commission.

The **Chairman** invited Dr. Cheneau to address the Committee with respect to the recommendations to be presented to the General Session.

Dr. Cheneau expressed regret that the detailed concern of the Organization had not been accepted. He stated that he was not in a position to accept a proposal which provided for the continuation of the Commission under the aegis of FAO, with only administrative support. He had come to this Session of the Executive Committee with the specific task of defending the provision of professional services from within the Organization. He was not, he stated, in a position to inform the Committee whether or not the proposed arrangement was constitutionally acceptable to the Organization and, from a practical viewpoint, acceptable to the Director-General of FAO.

Dr. Cheneau advised the Committee that he had consulted the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division, FAO, and no decision could be taken until they had a firm proposal from the Committee. FAO reserved the right to present their views to the General Session. The **Chairman** commented that the Report of the Executive Committee would contain the Committee's proposals for the future of the Commission and he hoped that this would be sufficient for FAO's needs.

The possibility of sharing the cost of a post of Technical Secretary was raised. **Dr. Cheneau** stated that it would not be possible for the Animal Production and Health Division to create half a professional post without the approval of the FAO Conference.

Agenda Item 2 - Report on the Commission's activities during 1991/1992

The report presented by the Secretary on the activities of the Commission during the period under review was discussed and the Committee agreed that it should be submitted to the Thirtieth Session of the Commission to be held in Rome in April 1993. The Committee took note of the Secretary's participation in FAO activities in the field of FMD which reflects part of the Commission's contribution to the FAO activities.

Agenda Item 3 - FMD situation in Europe and in other regions during 1991/1992

A paper was presented by the Secretary and a brief summary was given on the disease situation in Europe and in other regions. The Committee noted with satisfaction the

favourable disease situation so far established in Europe and emphasised the importance of the disease risk in the southeastern borders of Europe and in north African countries. The observer from the EC informed the Committee on the EC activities in supporting countries in these areas to cope with FMD control. This consists of a dual package which includes financial support for training in FMD diagnosis plus provision of an amount of vaccine to complement the vaccination campaign in Morocco, and in Turkey for the maintenance of the strategic vaccination area in western Anatolia.

The Committee also emphasised that contact with the newly established states in the former USSR area was important, especially for those states bordering Commission member countries.

Agenda Item 4 (a) and (b) - FMD prophylaxis in Europe/Vaccination programme

A paper was presented by the Secretary covering the FMD vaccination programme carried out in a number of countries in Europe and indicating that as of 1 January 1992 vaccination had been discontinued in the whole of Europe.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that non-EC member countries had also harmonized their policy with that of the EC and that vaccine reserves in various forms had been set up in almost all European countries. The observer from the EC gave an updated report on the present position of the Community vaccine banks and on the possibility that vaccine could be provided if an emergency situation which threatened the Community arose in a non-EC country in Europe.

The Committee, in expressing appreciation of the valuable EC assistance provided to Morocco, Turkey, Israel and Egypt, emphasised the importance for the Commission member countries to check the practical application and function of the respective national contingency plans by or through the organization of simulation exercises.

Agenda Item 5 (a) - Activities of the Research Group

The Chairman of the Research Group presented a report of the activities of the Research Group during 1991/92. These were Sessions held at the FMD Institute, Ankara, from 1 to 5 October 1991, and at the Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis, Mittelhäusern, Switzerland, from 8 to 11 September 1992.

The conclusions/recommendations and proposed activities for 1993 were discussed by the Executive Committee and agreed.

(a) Activities of the Group

At its last Session, held at Mittelhäusern, Switzerland, in September 1992, the Group reviewed its activities in regard to the threat to Europe from FMD and recommended that it continue to provide technical and scientific support to the Commission by:

- i. **maintaining surveillance of FMD in countries bordering Europe;**

- ii. providing advice on the selection of vaccine strains and the establishment of vaccine banks;
- iii. advising on the use of emergency vaccines following outbreaks of FMD; and
- iv. characterising outbreak strains of FMD viruses for selection of vaccine strains for prophylaxis and for molecular epidemiological purposes.

(b) Membership and meetings

The future composition of the Group was discussed at the same Session, and it was recommended that it should consist of senior representatives from the FMD laboratories at Pirbright, Lelystad, Tübingen, Brescia, Madrid, Lindholm, Mittelhäusern and Ankara, and that when required experts be invited on an ad hoc basis.

The Executive Committee noted that six of the seven members of the present Research Group are also members of the FMD Subgroup of the Scientific Veterinary Committee of the Commission of the European Community. This overlap was discussed by the Committee and it was recommended that in future ad hoc joint meetings of the Research Group and the FMD Subgroup should be held to avoid duplication of effort and save costs.

In the case of the biennial open meetings, the Executive Committee recommended that the practice should continue of inviting observers from the EC and OIE and Member States which are of strategic importance in terms of the risk of entry of FMD into Europe i.e. Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, the CIS and North Africa.

(c) Costs

The cost of holding meetings of the Research Group was discussed by the Committee and it was concluded that savings could be made if the costs of members' attendance at meetings was met by National Authorities. It was pointed out, however, that this would be difficult for some members as there was no budget line between their establishment and the National Authority.

One solution proposed was that in exceptional cases a member's expenses could be met by the Commission at the discretion of the Chairman. An alternative proposal from the EC observer was that the costs of representatives from member countries of the European Community could be paid by the CEC while those of representatives from outside the European Community could be met by the Commission. This arrangement would be most appropriate on occasions when joint meetings of the Research Group and the FMD Subgroup are held.

It was agreed that when the Chairman or other members of the Group are called to extraordinary meetings the costs will be met by the Commission.

The Executive Committee decided that there will be no meeting of the Research Group during 1993. They requested that the present Chairman continue in Office until 1994 when a meeting will be held at which the new Committee constitutes itself.

(d) Organisation

It is proposed that for biennial open meetings the arrangements, including invitations, be handled by FAO and by the EUFMD. The meetings should be chaired by the Chairman of the Research Group.

For ad hoc joint meetings between the FMD Subgroup and the Research Group it is proposed that arrangements be handled by the CEC and that meetings be chaired by the Chairman of the FMD Subgroup.

Agenda Item 5 (b) - Review of Commission recommendations

The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work carried out by the Research Group and by OIE and the EC in the preparation of the **National Contingency Plans, the Security Standards for FMD Laboratories, the Minimal Conditions for the Importation into Europe of Live Animals, Fresh Meat and Offal of the Bovine Species.**

The Committee agreed that the three papers should now go forward to the General Session for adoption. The Committee commented that guidance was necessary on trading conditions for sheep meat and venison and this should be one of the priorities for the Research Group.

Dr. Donaldson was asked to comment on the risk associated with sheep meat when he presents the Report to the Thirtieth Session.

Agenda Item 6 - Second Phase of the Buffer Zone Project in Turkey

A paper presented by the Secretary on the activities carried out by the Commission, FAO and the EC in the Turkish Thrace area and in the strategic vaccination area in western Anatolia in Turkey, was discussed and commented by the Committee.

The observer from the EC informed the Committee on developments in the negotiations with the Turkish Government and the proposal to assist the Ankara FMD Institute through the services of the Pirbright Laboratory and also to assist in the cost of vaccine for use in a strategic vaccination area which should be limited in its geographic extension in order to increase the efficiency of the vaccination programme and the surveillance of animal movements in this area.

The Committee was concerned to note that outbreaks of FMD are still occurring in the strategic vaccination area in western Anatolia. The Committee recommended that the present situation and policy so far established, i.e. non-vaccination, should continue in the Thrace area and sero surveillance controls should be carried out on a regular basis in collaboration with the Turkish authorities concerned in order to assess the absence of virus circulating in this area.

The Chairman requested the Administrative Assistant to present the Financial Report.

TF904200 MTF/INT/O11/MUL
Status of contributions at 8 February 1993

The Committee was informed that it might be difficult to recover all outstanding arrears (US\$29,448) in view of the fact that the situation with regard to the membership of two of the former member countries (Czechoslovakia/Yugoslavia) is not clear at the present time.

Income/available resources/project expenditure 1992

The Committee noted that the cash deficit at 31 December 1992, amounted to US\$37,913.

Breakdown of expenditure 1991/1993

The Committee approved the accounts for the period under review.

Proposed Budget for 1993

The Committee requested the Administrative Assistant to draw up a budget for 1993, which would more accurately reflect the present financial situation of the Commission.

It was considered that, while every effort should be made to recover the arrears (US\$29,448), the budget would have to be based on pledges due for the calendar year 1993, (US\$271,711 in accordance with the level of contributions ratified by the Executive Committee at its Fifty-fourth Session held at Pirbright, U.K. from 7 to 9 April 1992) less the cash deficit at the end of 1992 i.e.

US\$271,711 - US\$37,913 =	<u>US\$233,798</u>
less essential expenditure :	
P5 Secretary x 5 months	US\$ 55,290
P5 Secretary x 3 months	**US\$ 33,174
G6 Admin.Assist. x 12 months	US\$ 82,545
Sub-total (secretariat)	<u>US\$171,009</u>
Temp.assistance 30th Session (interpreters etc)	US\$ 15,000
Overtime for support staff during 30th Session	US\$ 1,000
Personnel total	<u>US\$187,009</u>
Contracts, World Reference Laboratory	US\$ 18,000
Travel	US\$ 10,000
General Operating expenses (hospitality, misc.)	US\$ 2,000
TOTAL essential expenditure for 1993	<u>US\$217,009</u>
Uncommitted balance	<u>US\$ 16,789</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>US\$ 233,798</u>

** The Committee recommended that the Secretary be granted terminal leave in lieu of payment for accrued annual leave.

At the request of the observer from the EC, the footnote on travel (TF904200 proposed budget for 1993) regarding the possibility of covering any additional expenditure under this item from the EC's TF911100, was deleted.

The Administrative Assistant informed the Committee that the call letters for pledges for 1993, had not yet been dispatched due to lack of personnel in the Financial Services Division. She undertook to send copies of the call letters to the CV0's of the member countries as soon as they were received in the secretariat.

TF911100 (EC)/TF909700 (non-EC)

Accounts for 1992, and proposed budgets for 1993 were presented. The observer from EC questioned expenditure incurred for travel during 1992 under TF911100. The secretariat undertook to provide him with a list of the travel undertaken and evidence of the EC authorization for this expenditure.

The Committee approved the Financial Report, and agreed that the following documentation should be circulated to the member countries prior to the Thirtieth Session:

- the budget for TF904200 for 1993 as revised and agreed by the Committee
- the approved accounts for TF904200 for 1991/1992, and
- the approved accounts for 1991/1992 and approved budgets for 1993 for TF911100 and TF909700

It was also agreed that, based on actual expenditure, an estimate be made for an increase in the level of member countries annual contributions. In this respect, the Committee reiterated the need to have a reserve fund in order not to operate on a constant deficit as has been the case over the past few years.

Agenda Item 9 - Adoption of draft report

Following discussion, the draft report was adopted subject to the incorporation of the amendments agreed and to any necessary editorial changes.

Agenda Item 10 - Any other business

In his closing remarks, the Chairman extended thanks to the delegates and observers for their contribution to the discussions, and to the secretariat for the preparation of the working documents. He thanked Dr. Cheneau for having conveyed the views of the Organization to the Committee and expressed the wish that the recommendations made would be positively considered by FAO. The arrangements for the Session made by the host country, the valuable and generous assistance given by the interpreters and by local staff, and the outstanding hospitality offered to the Committee during their stay in Spain were also acknowledged.