Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ECA/40/17/REPORT

REPORT

Fortieth Session of the
European Commission on Agriculture

Budapest, Hungary
27-28 September 2017

Previous sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture (known as the European Committee on Agricultural Technology from 1949 to 1952 and as the European Committee on Agriculture until 1956) are as follows:

1.	**Preparatory Meeting**	**Paris, 27–28 June 1949**
2.	**First Session**	**Rome, 26-30 September 1949**
3.	**Second Session**	**Geneva, 27-30 March 1950**
4.	**Third Session**	**Rome, 25-28 June 1951**
5.	**Fourth Session**	**Rome, 3-6 June 1952**
6.	**Fifth Session**	**Rome, 26-29 May 1953**
7.	**Sixth Session**	**Rome, 14-18 June 1954**
8.	**Seventh Session**	**Rome, 20-24 June 1955**
9.	**Eighth Session**	**Rome, 7-11 May 1956**
10.	**Ninth Session**	**Rome, 17-21 June 1957**
11.	**Tenth Session**	**Rome, 19-23 May 1958**
12.	**Eleventh Session**	**Rome, 25-29 May 1959**
13.	**Twelfth Session**	**Rome, 15-19 May 1961**
14.	**Thirteenth Session**	**Rome, 13-18 May 1963**
15.	**Fourteenth Session**	**Rome, 17-21 May 1965**
16.	**Fifteenth Session**	**Rome, 15-20 May 1967**
17.	**Sixteenth Session**	**Rome, 23-26 October 1968**
18.	**Seventeenth Session**	**Rome, 7-11 September 1970**
19.	**Eighteenth Session**	**Rome, 8-12 May 1972**
20.	**Nineteenth Session**	**Rome, 17-21 June 1974**
21.	**Twentieth Session**	**Rome, 17-23 June 1976**
22.	**Twenty-first Session**	**Rome, 19-23 June 1978**
23.	**Twenty-second Session**	**Rome, 23-27 June 1980**
24.	**Twenty-third Session**	**Rome, 21-25 June 1982**
25.	**Twenty-fourth Session**	**Innsbruck, Austria, 18-22 June 1984**
26.	**Twenty-fifth Session**	**Chania, Greece, 8-12 June 1987**
27.	**Twenty-sixth Session**	**Porto, Portugal, 23-26 May 1989**
28.	**Twenty-seventh Session**	**Herrsching, Germany, 1-5 July 1991**
29.	**Twenty-eighth Session**	**Valletta, Malta, 27 September – 1 October 1993**
30.	**Twenty-ninth Session**	**Bled, Slovenia, 2-6 October 1995**
31.	**Thirtieth Session**	**Nitra, Slovakia, 8-11 October 1997**
32.	**Thirty-first Session**	**Rome, 12-14 October 1999**
33.	**Thirty-second Session**	**Rome, 7-8 March 2002**
34.	**Thirty-third Session**	**Rome, 1-2 March 2004**
35.	**Thirty-fourth Session**	**Riga, Latvia, 7 June 2006**
36.	**Thirty-fifth Session**	**Innsbruck, Austria, 25 June 2008**
37.	**Thirty-sixth Session**	**Yerevan, Armenia, 11-12 May 2010**
38.	**Thirty-seventh Session**	**Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-18 April 2012**
39.	**Thirty-eighth Session**	**Bucharest, Romania, 1-2 April 2014**
40.	**Thirty-ninth Session**	**Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 September 2015**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The 40th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held in Budapest, Hungary from 27-28 September 2017.

2. Representatives from 40 member countries and one member organization participated in the ECA session. Nine Observers, and 11 civil society organizations also participated.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Ms Marieta Okenkova, Chair of the European Commission on Agriculture opened the 40th Session of the ECA and welcomed the delegates. She highlighted that this Session was one of the best attended in ECA history with over 130 participants from 40 member countries and thanked the Government of Hungary for hosting the ECA.

4. Mr Péter Gál, Deputy-State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary, welcomed the delegates to the 40th Session of the ECA and noted that the topics to be discussed were very pertinent for the Region. He highlighted that the Hungarian Government plays an important role in research and education on animal diseases and encouraged delegates to look for universal and region-specific solutions to control and prevent diseases.

5. On behalf of FAO, Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Hungary for its hospitality and dedication to the work of FAO. He highlighted that ECA has become a brand of the Region, being a unique Commission unavailable in other regions, and that it must be a vital and useful technical body.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

6. The Commission adopted its Agenda as given in Appendix A of this Report.

APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

7. Mr Vlad Mustăciosu (Romania) and Ms Lidija Chadikovska (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) were appointed as Rapporteurs of the ECA.

PANEL DISCUSSION

8. The Session was opened by a panel discussion: “Effect of Climate change on transboundary animal diseases” with the participation of Mr Damien Kelly, Moderator, and

Mr Jeyhun Aliyev, Mr Francisco Reviriego Gordejo, Mr René Louail and Ms Linda Dixon, panellists.

Among others, the following issues were highlighted by the panellists:

- The transboundary nature of animal diseases and the need to combat them at source within global as well region-specific approaches;
- The need for resources for developing and implementing control and prevention measures, including prediction and early detection measures, data collection and vaccines;
- The importance of capacity-building at country level and on good practices in biosecurity at farmer level, regardless of farm size;
- A holistic approach, greater societal engagement and multisectoral interventions and greater participation of society;
- Agroecology was indicated as a sustainable model, using less antibiotics, with close attention to animal welfare and disease risks.

THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ANIMAL DISEASES, TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE REU REGION

9. The Commission examined how increasing temperatures and water stress in the region of Europe and Central Asia caused by climate change could accelerate the growth of pathogens and parasites, affect the quantity, seasonality and distribution of vectors, or even introduce new diseases in areas where livestock has never before been exposed to them.

10. The Commission:

a) **Noted** that climate change was already having a serious impact on the sustainability of farming in the Europe and Central Asia region, with animals, including wildlife, particularly affected. There were many factors at work at the interface between changing ecosystems and diseases, and other health threats are heavily influenced by changes in climate. Livestock and humans were vulnerable to a wide range of transboundary diseases, especially in terms of animal and human health, food safety and food security. It is therefore an opportune moment to address the risks of transboundary animal diseases (TADs).

b) **Confirmed**, in view of the complex epidemiology of many TADs, in particular vector-borne diseases, the importance of a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach that was best framed within the context of the 'One Health' tripartite initiative, to which FAO is a substantial contributor together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

c) **Encouraged** all players to draw on the positive lessons learned from the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and comply with OIE standards as key perspectives to maintaining an optimum level of safe trade, even when faced with the threat of animal diseases.

d) **Noted** that stakeholder awareness coupled with allocation of government resources to surveillance, early detection, early response and control, form the basis of sound policies needed to prevent transboundary diseases in the Europe and Central Asia region.
e) **Endorsed** the policy recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 14 and 15 of ECA/40/17/3 (see appendix C).

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR): THE LOSS OF A MAJOR DEFENCE TO THE EMERGING CHALLENGE?

11. The Commission examined the potential impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on food security, nutrition and human health in general, threatening the realization of FAO cross-cutting strategic objectives and several of the Sustainable Development Goals (for example 2, 3, 14 and 15) in Europe and Central Asia.

12. The Commission:
a) **Recognized** the ultimate objective to reduce the need for and promote the prudent use of antimicrobials by preventing disease. Diseases and infections should primarily be prevented by ensuring biosecurity, following good production and management practices, and implementing integrated disease control programmes to minimize the occurrence of diseases. Regulations for antibiotic distribution, quality, use and control of residues could preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics as a public good. Sharing of best practices in the prudent use of antimicrobials in both intensive and extensive livestock production systems should be promoted by member countries. Exploring approaches for reducing antimicrobial use in livestock, such as reframing from the use of antibiotics as growth promoters, which often features in intensive livestock systems. In this regard, a task force of the Codex Alimentarius on AMR should be supported by the Member States of ECA.
b) **Noted** that in June 2017 the EU adopted a new 'European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)', which is fully tailored to the implementation of the Global Action Plan reaffirmed as the blueprint for tackling antimicrobial resistance in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016.
c) **Endorsed** the policy recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 18 and 19 of ECA/40/17/4 (see appendix C).

DISEASE OCCURRENCE TRACKING, STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO TADS AND INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

13. The Commission reviewed outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), African swine fever (ASF), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), lumpy skin disease (LSD) and others, over the last ten years, having caused epidemic emergencies in Europe and Central Asia despite investment in prevention, biosecurity and

control measures, diagnostics and improved surveillance. The background paper indicated that modern technologies, such as whole genome sequencing, improved vaccines and diagnostics, modelling outbreaks and mapping risk factors were available but were rarely linked to policy development or risk-management decisions. A regional approach to TADs and risk assessment/prioritization would be an absolute requirement and needed to be promoted through access to shared resources, training and common strategies using new technologies (e.g. mobile phones). Interventions should be aimed at all sectors, including smallholders, farmers, private veterinarians and the general public.

14. The Commission:
    a) **Recognized** that efficient risk assessment and risk management in relation to TADs relied on timely, accurate, reliable and efficient circulation of relevant information on the occurrence of specific diseases and the animal health situation in general. In this context, sharing of data on transboundary animal diseases would be necessary for any disease control measures to be successful at both national and regional[1] levels.
    b) **Took note** of well-functioning international data-sharing systems already existing in the Europe and Central Asia region in different frameworks and with different objectives. Initiatives designed to identify synergies and detect duplication and inconsistencies between existing systems should be encouraged in order to ensure that coherent data and information are being made available to the different users and for different purposes.
    c) **Supported** initiatives intended to optimize the use of data resources related to transboundary animal diseases with a regional strategic vision and congratulated FAO on launching this debate.
    d) Noted the need for investments, including at regional[1] level, in research and development on diagnostic tools, data-sharing platforms, new medicines and vaccines and alternative interventions, combining the efforts of public, private as well as involved sectors.
    e) **Endorsed** the policy recommendations for members as outlined in paragraph 16 and the policy recommendations to FAO as outlined in paragraph 17 of ECA/40/17/5 (see appendix C).

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONCERNS IN FAO'S WORK

15. The Commission took note of the status of progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in advancing gender equality in the region, as part of its mandate and commitment under the Corporate Policy on Gender Equality and the Regional Gender Equality Strategy adopted in January 2016.

[1] Refers to Europe and Central Asia region

16. The Commission:
    a) **Reviewed** and **acknowledged** the Regional Office's structured and methodical approach to this subject and the work it has delivered on it. Being transparent about gender inequality was of crucial importance when taking action against it, and the findings in the document made it clear that gender-disaggregated data was not only useful but essential to understanding and tackling gender inequalities that persist.
    b) **Noted** that the FAO regional gender equality strategy for Europe and Central Asia has proven to be a useful document that has led to change. Major actions performed on the basis of this strategy, such as meetings held with the regional gender network and associated activities, including capacity development and empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs, have been successful in moving the agenda forward. In this context, successful cooperation between FAO and Turkey under the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme was highlighted, and member countries were encouraged to contribute to support capacity development of national stakeholders.
    c) **Supported** the Regional Office's intention to develop a strategy on gender equality, building on the momentum and experiences with activities undertaken and lessons learned during the work carried out under the current strategy. Well-founded proposals should materialize into concrete action. Further consideration should be given to monitoring of strategy implementation in the different FAO programmes in the Europe and Central Asia region.
    d) **Endorsed** the policy recommendations for Member States that are based on findings from country gender assessments and formulated in the Joint Call for Action issued by the Vilnius conference, as outlined in paragraph 30 of ECA/40/17/6 (see appendix C).

REVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

17. The Commission considered the assessment report on the ECA. The transparency with which it has been prepared in following up on the decision of the 39th Session of the ECA and the 30th European Regional Conference, and the work carried out by both the evaluation expert and the Secretariat was appreciated. A more technically focused ECA may require a more in-depth consultation at national level which will necessitate the need for the timely availability of session documents.

18. The Commission:
    a) **Welcomed** the assessment report, which provides not only a very good analysis of the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the ECA, but also three potential scenarios for its revitalization.

b) **Reaffirmed** that all sessions should be concluded with clear recommendations. The outcomes of experts' technical discussions at the ECA should feed into the ERC and form the basis for political decisions taken by ministers, avoiding duplication of discussions. In this respect, the ECA could also focus on FAO regional initiatives (in particular the selection and monitoring of such initiatives) and on setting the ERC agenda. The participation of partners – international organizations, research institutes, civil society and the private sector – should be further strengthened.

c) **Proposed** that the 2030 Agenda should serve as an umbrella for future sessions of the ECA, making it a platform in which= to exchange views on how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are most relevant for the Europe and Central Asia region are implemented within the region, refraining from setting up "regional indicators and targets" for SDGs so as to avoid duplication of work.

d) **Concluded** to support an 'Improved ECA' model with a more technical edge as the future modality of the ECA.

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECA

19. The Commission reviewed the proposal presented to amend the Rules of Procedure of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) and appreciated the work of the current Executive Committee and the FAO Secretariat which, together, prepared the document in close consultation with the FAO Legal and Ethics Office.

20. The Commission approved the new Rules of Procedure of the ECA as stated in ECA/40/17/8 Rev.2.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21. The Commission elected Mr Damien Kelly (Ireland) as a Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Mr Spyridon Ellinas (Cyprus) as a First Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Galina Jevgrafova (Estonia) as a Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee for a two-year period in compliance with the amended Rules of Procedure.

22. Six members of the Executive Committee who were newly elected by the Commission include Ms Aulikki Hulmi (Finland), Ms Katia Tsilosani (Georgia), Ms Ágnes Dús (Hungary), Ms Graziella Romito (Italy), Ms Zora Weberova (Slovakia), and Mr Ali Recep Nazli (Turkey).

23. The Chairperson thanked Ms Marietta Okenkova, the outgoing Chairperson, for her dedication and efforts made in the past two years in her respective capacity, and Mr Siim Tiidemann (Estonia), Mr Miroslaw Drygas (Poland), Mr Hilmi Erin Dedeoglu (Turkey) and Mr Oleg

Kobiakov (Russian Federation), the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, for their intensive collaboration in the Executive Committee over the past years.

OTHER BUSINESS

24. The Commission had no comments on any of the Information Notes presented the previous day, i.e. The Commission reviewed and accepted the presented Information Notes as stated in ECA/40/17/INF/1 Rev.2, ECA/40/17/INF/2, ECA/40/17/INF/3, ECA/40/17/INF/4 Rev.1, and ECA/40/17/INF/5 Rev.1.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECA

25. The Commission accepted the offer of Hungary to host the 41st Session of the ECA in Budapest in 2019, with the date to be decided by the Executive Committee in collaboration with FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, but not later than six months prior to the 32nd European Regional Conference in compliance with the amended Rules of Procedure.

REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

26. The report was endorsed *en bloc* with changes in the paragraph 12 point a., paragraph 14 point d. and some editorial changes by the Commission according to the comments made by Member States.

Appendix A

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Opening of the Session

1) Adoption of the agenda and timetable

2) Appointment of the Rapporteur

Main theme: Effect of climate change on transboundary animal diseases (TADs)

3) The effect of climate change on animal diseases, trade and food security in the REU region

The REU region spans an extremely large range of agro-ecological environments. Animal production systems occurring across this large area are similarly fairly diverse: from predominant intensive animal production in the North-West to much more extensive, even pastoralist, animal husbandry systems in the South-East. Extensive belts of zonal environments, such as semi-deserts, steppes, forest-steppes, forests and tundra, sharing similar climatic and animal production characteristics, stretch in longitudinal direction across Eurasia for thousands of kilometres. This significantly facilitates longitudinal spread of diseases through agro-ecologically similar settings. The most densely populated mid-latitudes of the area, bridging Asia and Europe, provide an "epidemiological Silk Road" for the spread of TADs in both directions. Middle latitudes of Eurasia experience complex climate change processes, whose effect on the epidemiology of animal diseases needs to be carefully re-analyzed and monitored in future in order to anticipate emerging epidemiological threats to animal production.

One of the difficulties here is that the effects of climate change develop over large spatial scales and often accumulate over a period of time before their agro-ecological and epidemiological implications become apparent. Many of the recent epidemics or local flare ups of TADs (ASF, LSD, PPR, AI, rabies etc.) seem to have been preceded by certain changes in regional climate systems, modulating host or vector population dynamics and thus favouring elevated disease activity. Most visibly, variations in climate affect vector borne diseases such as Blue Tongue, West Nile Fever, Schmallenberg disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever and others. However, on the inter-annual and decadal scale climate also strongly modulates the dynamics of other diseases such as African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza and fox rabies, which are often actually considered largely climate irresponsive. This calls for a change in the way in which we perceive the problem of animal diseases towards accounting more and more for a broad environmental context of their epidemiology and expanding the range of disciplines and approaches likely to help (wildlife ecology, climatology, remote sensing, GIS, niche modelling etc.).

Session one will review these and other examples and case studies in order to identify climate-TADs related issues that need to be addressed scientifically and practically. Presentations and discussions will be held on if and how changes in climate and weather patterns have already affected disease occurrence rates and ranges, and will provide an outlook into the future climate scenarios likely to bring even more changes to the vectors, pathogen and host distribution patterns.

The session will also review the current impacts of animal diseases on trade and the development of the animal production sector under the conditions of climate change, in the context of local and international trade restrictions. Within the framework of the two ongoing regional initiatives in the Region (Empowering Small Holders and Family farms and Agri-food Trade and Market integration)2 but also an envisaged third regional initiative focusing on sustainable natural resource management in a changing climate, the session will particularly focus on how animal diseases impair the production of smallholder farmers, their likely production losses, and the implications for food security and public health challenges (zoonosis) in the region. Trade-related sanitary and phytosanitary issues, international food safety and quality standards and the transparency of agri-food policy will be considered. The regulatory and enabling environment measures needed to ensure viability for small holders, while ensuring food safely and preventing the further spread of transboundary diseases will be addressed too.

4) Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): the loss of a major defence to the emerging challenge?

The availability and use of antimicrobial drugs in terrestrial and aquatic animals and in crop production is essential for both health and productivity and contributes to food security, food safety and animal welfare, and in turn, the protection of livelihoods and sustainability of animal and crop production. However, there are growing global concerns about resistance to antimicrobial drugs, including antibiotics, and that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will reverse these benefits. The livestock sector is one of the main sectors that is associated with antibiotic resistance. There are a range of factors which have contributed to this such as: (i) a lack of regulation and oversight of use; (ii) poor therapy adherence; (iii) non-therapeutic use; (iv) over-the-counter or internet sales, and; (v) the availability of counterfeit or poor quality antimicrobials. The consequences of AMR include the failure to successfully treat infections, leading to more severe or prolonged illness, death, production losses and negative consequences for livelihoods and food security.
The underlying reasons, current status and challenges faced in the region and how will these effect REU's response to regional shifts in animal diseases will be discussed. Similarly, prevention and response measures at the regional level will be addressed. There is a need for a multi-sectorial and multi-dimensional One Health approach. The FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite, together with public and private sector organizations, shares the responsibility for and coordination of global activities addressing AMR at animal-human-ecosystems interfaces. FAO, being a multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary organization in itself, brings into practice its expertise on aquatic and terrestrial animal health and production, food safety and crop production, with due attention to the regulatory aspects.

5) Disease occurrence tracking, strategic response to TADs and informed decision making

Ensuring timely and reliable information flows on the disease situation all the way from the farm to the international level is key to effectively fighting transboundary diseases, developing strategic response measures and applying informed and effective control actions in the affected areas. Firstly, existing approaches to international disease tracking and reporting used by the EC

[2] Regional Initiative 1 - Empowering Small Holders and Family farms for improved livelihood and poverty reduction and Regional Initiative 2 - Improving Agri-food trade and market integration

(ADNS), FAO (EMPRES-i), OIE (WAHIS), WHO and DTRA will be reviewed to find ways to better coordinate their efforts and where possible avoid duplication. The practice of sharing disease occurrence information internationally: either as opportunistically reported outbreaks or results of systematic targeted surveillance campaigns, needs to be strengthened and enhanced, possibly with the use of more advanced information management solutions.

Secondly, attention will be brought to the fact that strategic responses to any TAD requires a good understanding of a wealth of other epidemiologically relevant information, such as host population data, production systems, vector distribution, risk factors and environmental variables (land cover, climate, trade patterns etc.). Currently, there is no international information facility aimed at collecting, managing, updating and making this kind of data available to animal health analysts and decision makers. Disease risk modelling efforts are strongly restrained by the availability of such background information and are currently restricted geographically to just a few selected countries, mainly in Western Europe. This situation can be greatly improved to make epidemiological observation and disease situation monitoring much more intelligent, strategic and risk based, through use of a wide range disease relevant information products.

Thirdly, recent advances in information technologies (dynamic cartographic applications, mobile data collection, data management and visualization techniques, etc.) make it much easier to integrate disease occurrence data with other epidemiologically relevant information into the decision support tools, which can help to prepare for animal health emergencies and to respond in a strategic and informed way.

The session will review some of the existing solutions developed in the framework of FAO projects, including risk analysis and communication, disease risk modelling, tools for data collection and support of the decision making process. FAO's assistance to countries with animal disease response measures and engagement of stakeholders will also be presented and discussed, i.e. Crisis Management Centre missions, Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP), capacity building, etc. The session will analyse what is available and what needs to be improved based on the new challenges to ensure stakeholders can prepare and respond adequately.

6) Leaving no one behind: challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming gender concerns in FAO work

The Secretariat will provide to the Members an update on the status of progress made by FAO in the region in addressing gender-related challenges in agriculture and rural development. The paper reviews the preliminary results of the FAO REU regional gender equality strategy, and the findings of the stock-taking, to seek recommendations and solutions for enhancing its efforts over the next biennium.

7) Review of the assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture

Members will review the findings of the report on the assessment of the ECA and discuss its recommendations, it will also assess if the new format of the ECA session was successful and what new modalities might be useful in "modernizing" the ECA.

8) Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of ECA

Members will review and discuss the proposal for the amendment to the Rules of Procedure of ECA.

9) Election of Members of the Executive Committee

10) Any Other Business

11) Date and place of the Forty first Session

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Commission

Closing of the Session

Information items

UNFCCC Paris agreement: how do countries' INDCs/NDCs commitments relate to transboundary diseases what does this mean for climate financing

The document reviews the pledged commitments of member states under their INDC/NDCs towards the UNFCCC Paris agreement. In particular the document assess how such commitments are linked to animal diseases and considerations on how animal and other transboundary diseases can be included in national as well as regional climate financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

International Years 2014-2016 and their contribution to the activities in the regions

The past few years, has seen a number of agriculture and food security issues being the topic of United Nations International Years; namely, the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in 2014, Soils (IYS) in 2015 and Pulses (IYP) in 2016. The document reviews how these international years were received and what activities and impacts where achieved in the region.

Regional Technical Commissions' contribution to the Regional Priorities

An overview on the main priorities of work of the regional commissions (ECA, EIFAAC, GFCM, CACFISH and EFC) based on their work-programme and directions within the FAO Strategic Objectives is presented. The document identifies possible linkages and synergies among the commissions, especially considering the agreement to jointly report to the ERC and address common and cross cutting national and regional priorities such as Agenda 2030.

Appendix B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ECA/40/17/1 Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ECA/40/17/2	Provisional Timetable
ECA/40/17/3	The effect of climate change on animal diseases, trade and food security in the REU region
ECA/40/17/4	Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): the loss of a major defence to the emerging challenge?
ECA/40/17/5	Disease occurrence tracking, strategic response to TADs and informed decision making
ECA/40/17/6	Leaving no one behind: challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming gender concerns in FAO work
ECA/40/17/7	Review of the Assessment of the European Commission on Agriculture
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INF SERIES

ECA/40/17/INF/1 Rev.2	Provisional List of Documents
ECA/40/17/INF/2	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union (EU) and its Member States
ECA/40/17/INF/3	UNFCCC Paris agreement: how do countries' INDCs/NDCs commitments relate to transboundary diseases what does this mean for climate financing
ECA/40/17/INF/4 Rev.1	International Years 2014, 2015 and 2016: activities and impacts in ECA region
ECA/40/17/INF/5 Rev.1	Regional Technical Commissions' contribution to the Regional Priorities

Appendix C

ENDORSED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ANIMAL DISEASES, TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE REU REGION

(ECA/40/17/3)

Recommendations for members

14. The ECA may wish to recommend that members actively participate in the following actions:

a) **Raise awareness** of sustainable agricultural systems under climate change and create public communication programmes, in particular on TAD issues, to ensure behavioural change and active participation of all stakeholders in risk mitigation and management.
b) **Support** efforts to empower smallholders and family farms in rural economies and help them to address the issues and barriers to improve their livelihoods, in particular in improving access to information and services needed to deal with TADs.
c) **Support** capacity-building and training, the preparation of materials and manuals, and conduct simulation exercises to promote practical implementation of One-Health and animal informatics.
d) **Invite** REU countries to consider building cooperation with European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD Commission) or joining it.

Recommendations for FAO REU

15. The ECA may wish to recommend that FAO REU:

a) Through the new REU Regional Initiative 3, **strengthen** support mechanisms for developing regional plans, improving policies and building capacity in addressing TADs.
b) **Support** the development capacity of REU member countries in WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS), in particular for compliance with TADs prevention and control measures.
c) **Promote** a One-Health approach in Europe and Central Asia and strengthen support mechanisms to member counties on issues related to early warning and responses to emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases, involving multidisciplinary teams from FAO and its partners from GF-TADs Europe, Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH), and OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU).
d) **Support** the development of capacities for regional analysis and modelling/mapping on the impact of climate change on TADs and wildlife and vector ecology. Develop predictive tools for emerging diseases, identifying regional differences in disease impacts.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR): THE LOSS OF A MAJOR DEFENCE TO THE EMERGING CHALLENGE?

(ECA/40/17/4)

Recommendations for members

18. The ECA is invited to recommend that members actively participate in the following actions:

a) **Raise awareness** on TADs, climate change and AMR and promote behavioural change through public communication programmes that target different audiences in human health, animal health, the agricultural sector, as well as consumers. Promote the inclusion of AMR as a core component of professional education, training, certification, continuing education and development in the public and veterinary health sectors and agricultural practice.

b) **Improve** surveillance and monitoring, including data on incidence, prevalence and trends, to better understand and respond to AMR patterns and their drivers. There are significant gaps in the information available on the development and global economic implications of antimicrobial resistance. National governments, intergovernmental organizations, agencies, professional organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and academia should pursue research on the causes and impacts of AMR. Global emphasis on surveillance and evidence-based research will inform policies and actions that REU member countries and intergovernmental agencies can take to address the growing health security challenges of AMR. In addition, more information on AMR can assist research and development of medical and agricultural alternatives to antimicrobials.

c) **Strengthen** governance for stronger hygiene and infection prevention measures, including animal vaccination, which limit the spread of resistant micro-organisms and reduce antimicrobial misuse and overuse. Infection prevention measures, such as cleaning and disinfection, farm biosecurity, improved husbandry practices and vaccination, can curtail the spread of micro-organisms resistant to antimicrobial medicines. By preventing infectious diseases, whose treatment would (wrongly) trigger the prescription of antibiotic medicines to treat viral infections, the global community can better steward these essential medicines. Sustainable antimicrobial use extends beyond human well-being to animal production. Antibiotics are frequently used to stimulate livestock growth and prevent infection on farms and in slaughterhouses. Sustainable animal husbandry practices can reduce the risk of resistant bacteria spreading through the food chain to livestock and humans.

d) **Promote** good practices to increase the longevity and efficacy of antimicrobials. Veterinary practices must eliminate unnecessary dispensing of antimicrobials. Evidence-based prescribing through effective, rapid, low-cost diagnostic tools are needed to optimize the use of antimicrobials for humans and animals. In addition to better prescribing practices, the global community must adjust patients' and the agricultural industry's inappropriate and unregulated use of antimicrobial agents. Stronger compliance with antibiotic treatment regimes and restrictions on non-therapeutic use of antibiotics within agriculture will provide a foundation for antimicrobial stewardship. Regulations for

antibiotic distribution, quality, and use could preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics as a public good. Sharing best practices in the prudent use of antibiotics in both intensive and extensive livestock production systems by EU countries. Exploring approaches for reducing antimicrobial use in livestock which often feature in intensive livestock systems (FAO, 2016a).

e) To better understand the level of use of antimicrobials in the region, **improve** data collection and sharing on levels of imports and exports and use across the various sectors.

f) **Invest** in research and development (R&D) on new antimicrobial medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and alternative interventions. The majority of pharmaceutical companies is located in the region; however they no longer carry out research on new antibiotics; this is of concern globally for human and animal health. R&D is therefore needed to produce new treatments that can be deployed against multidrug-resistant infections and governments should promote the development and production of affordable and accessible new drugs, diagnostic tools, vaccines, and alternatives.

Recommendations for FAO REU

19. The ECA is invited to recommend that FAO and other organizations actively participate in the following actions:

a) **Reinforce** AMR regional interventions through new dedicated results under the new 2018-2019 work plans for REU's Strategic Programme of Work, including its regional initiatives.

b) **Support** member countries in developing a multisectoral approach and in implementing national action plans on AMR.

c) In Europe and Central Asia, **create** mechanisms and models of cooperation between animal production, pharmaceutical companies, the animal feed sector and farmer organizations to address AMR.

d) Continue to support the development and use of tools such as ATLASS and the progressive management pathway on AMR.

e) Coordinate a study, possibly in cooperation with WHO and OIE, on the potential impacts of changes in climate and the environment, in particular in Europe and Central Asia, on the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance to improve the understanding of these interactions.

f) Continue support in the engagement of the private sector and find models to cooperate with different stakeholders, including veterinary and public health authorities, livestock producers, pharmaceutical companies, the animal feed sector and consumer and farmer organizations.

g) Develop a strong mobilization exercise to enhance responses to slow down the development of AMR.

DISEASE OCCURRENCE TRACKING, STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO TADS AND INFORMED DECISION-MAKING
(ECA/40/17/5)

Recommendations for members

16. The ECA may wish to recommend that member countries actively participate in the following actions:

a) Invest in research and development of diagnostic tools and data-sharing platforms and encourage the regional community to invest in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines, and alternative interventions.

b) Increase the involvement of the scientific research community on emerging animal health threats, epidemiology and host pathogen environment interactions into national and regional decision-making and responses to TADs.

c) Facilitate the establishment of a regional data mining centre to support development of high-tech disease management applications focused on risk modelling, early warning, early response and provision of contextualized information and knowledge on infectious diseases of animals and humans.

Recommendations for FAO REU

17. The ECA may wish to recommend that FAO REU and other organizations:

a) **Support** the development of regional networks and collaboration for data collection, risk assessment, diseases risk models, enhanced data sharing, early warning systems and emergency preparedness/response. This should include analysis of the interlinkages between climate change and environment, TADs, food security and other issues such as trade.

b) **Promote** regional mechanisms to manage outbreaks of TADs, through surveillance, early warning, detection and response that ensures coordination, communication and participation of all stakeholders.

c) The joint FAO-OIE-WHO Global Early Warning System (GLEWS+) should continue to **inform** prevention and control measures at global and regional levels through the rapid detection and risk assessment of health threats and events of potential concern at the human-animal-ecosystems' interface.

d) **Build** on the example of the European Commission for the control of foot-and-mouth disease (EuFMD) in developing regional approaches to surveillance, diagnosis and control of other emerging TADs.

e) **Promote** new technologies for sharing knowledge and developing expertise, including web-based platforms and mobile phone apps for disease surveillance and data sharing.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONCERNS IN FAO'S WORK
(ECA/40/17/6)

Policy recommendations

30. Members are invited to endorse the policy recommendations presented and agreed upon in the Joint Call for Action issued by the Vilnius conference, and which summarize the conclusions and recommendations from the gender assessments conducted by FAO in countries of the region. The objective is to reinforce the member governments' commitments to support women in agriculture and rural development as part of the SDGs 2030 Agenda:

1. **Formulate** national policies and strategies for agriculture and rural development, as well as food security and nutrition, that are inclusive and gender responsive, and comply with article 14 of CEDAW on the rights of rural women; and introduce accountability mechanisms to ensure that they are implemented;

2. **Establish and strengthen** inclusive governance mechanisms and enhance women's capacities for their increased representation and leadership in governing institutions at all levels, including in processes related to agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition policy-making and programming so that they can meaningfully participate in decision-making and in shaping laws, policies and programmes;

3. **Formulate and implement** policies and programmes on equal opportunities to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, targeting particularly rural women, and ensure that adequate financial resources are available for implementation of these programmes;

4. **Support** programmes aimed at rural women's economic empowerment, by improving their entrepreneurship skills, access to financing and markets, agricultural knowledge and education (including tertiary education), creating decent jobs, and overcoming the existing pay gap between women and men;

5. **Design and implement** transformative social protection policies and measures, and invest in rural infrastructure that specifically targets rural women, including policies and programmes to ensure that unpaid care work is recognized, reduced and reorganized through investment in both rural physical infrastructure and the social infrastructure of care;

6. **Modify** legal and institutional frameworks to address the underlying structural causes of gender inequality and ensure that national budgets are gender-responsive;

7. **Support** the collection and dissemination of information on good practices that advance gender equality in agriculture and rural development, food security and nutrition and the empowerment of rural women.

REVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE
(ECA/40/17/7)

34. The Improved ECA scenario would entail adjusting most of the key features and result in a more technical ECA, through an agenda and format that better meet the requests for more focused and specialised debate and exchange and enables more participation, and with a stronger degree of ownership and commitment by delegates.

35. In this scenario, the Executive Committee would not change in composition and would continue to be the interlocutor to FAO Secretariat during the inter-sessional periods, for ECA, ERC and the Informal Consultations.

Box 2. Characteristics of Improved ECA

Feature	Description
Agenda of sessions	Largely technical, programmatic agenda items only exceptional
Format of sessions	Mix of plenary presentations from key-note speakers, panel debates, working groups for sharing experience
Profile of Delegates	Efforts to ensure long-term continuity in attendance from ministries of agriculture and related organizations
Role of Executive Committee	Coordination and support to the ECA, ERC and Informal consultation
Composition of Executive Committee	Largely Permanent Representations, with a stronger and more systematic participation from Programme Countries
Timing of session	Alternate year from ERC
Duration	2-3 days