



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers
Subject :	CVO conclusions on animal disease surveillance systems in the EU

Following the seminar on animal disease surveillance held in the framework of the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers hosted by the Spanish Presidency, the Working Party adopted CVO conclusions which delegations will find attached to this note.

Animal Disease Surveillance Systems in the EU

Seminar Conclusions

Following the seminar on animal disease surveillance held in the framework of the informal CVO meeting hosted by the Spanish Presidency (Sevilla, 14th April 2010) the CVOs encourage the Commission to take into consideration these conclusions when drafting the new animal health law:

1. Surveillance has been recognised by the CVOs as one of the key elements of any animal health policy, giving priority to preventive approach, early detection and quick response. We are in a very convenient moment to strengthen this concept into the new Animal Health Law.
2. To succeed in animal disease surveillance two key issues have been identified: to lay down clear objectives and to improve the surveillance design with the aim of generating reliable, transparent and accessible epidemiological data.
3. Surveillance at EU level should be based on harmonized parameters and criteria, including agreed surveillance definitions and laboratory methodologies. The design of the surveillance should be tailored to different epidemiological scenarios.
4. The cost-effectiveness ratio of some surveillance programs seems not to be sufficiently assessed. The surveillance costs should be proportionate to its overall benefits.
5. Mixed surveillance systems addressing several pathogens or even disease syndromes could improve the efficiency with which surveillance resources are used.
6. Scientific advances, modern epidemiological tools (e.g. risk analysis) and laboratory capability enable the design of more effective and efficient surveillance systems.
7. Risk based surveillance is considered a highly effective and efficient surveillance system and it is currently used within the EU.

8. Risk based surveillance could be more efficient than traditional surveillance due to its higher sensitivity. However, it might also have certain limitations and therefore, it must be well designed and correctly implemented, in particular if it is aimed at providing evidence of disease freedom. Hence, it might need further development with the purpose of ensuring its correct implementation and also to guarantee consistency with the surveillance scope.
9. Coordination and two-way communication with international institutions and third countries are crucial for effective surveillance. It is necessary to reinforce them in order to guarantee an appropriate flow of transparent epidemiological information and a common understanding of surveillance objectives and methodologies. In order to ensure safe trade, the EU should take into account the surveillance systems put in place in both the EU Member States and third countries.
10. Continuous training programs and periodical feedback with results are suitable ways to ensure the motivation and the commitment of stakeholders. These stakeholders should also be fully involved in surveillance systems.

