



AGA: EUFMD/X/87/1

REPORT
OF THE
FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE
CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

held in
Berne, Switzerland
10 - 13 February 1987

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Introduction

The Executive Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease held its Forty-ninth Session at the Federal Veterinary Office, Berne, Switzerland, from 10 to 13 February 1987.

Present:

Dr. A. Rojahn, Fed. Rep. Germany, Chairman
Mr. W.H.G. Rees, United Kingdom)
Dr. L. Perpère, France) Vice-Chairmen
Dr. F. Walla, Austria
Dr. N.T. Belev, Bulgaria
Dr. C.A.M. de Andrade Fontes, Portugal
Dr. R. Berger, Finland
Dr. P. Gafner, Switzerland
Dr. J.G. van Bakkum, Netherlands, Chairman, Research Group

Secretariat:

Dr. P. Stouraitis
Secretary
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Miss J. Raftery
Administrative Assistant
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

On behalf of the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. P. Gafner welcomed the participants to Switzerland and wished them a very pleasant stay. He made brief reference to Switzerland's long association with the work of the Commission and stated that its role in monitoring the eradication and control of foot-and-mouth disease on the European continent has been of paramount importance to the livestock population in Europe.

In opening the Session, the Chairman thanked the Government of Switzerland for having offered host facilities for the Forty-ninth Session of the Executive Committee.

Item 1 Adoption of Agenda

The following Agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Report of the Executive Committee on the Commission's activities during the last biennium
3. FMD position in Europe during 1985-86
 - Position and prophylaxis in Europe
 - FMD situation in Italy
 - Vaccination campaigns in southeastern Europe
 - FMD position in other regions of particular interest to Europe
4. Swine vesicular disease in Europe
5. Activities of the Research Group (items referred to the Group by the Commission)

- Methodology for investigating the origin of infection of FMD outbreaks in Europe
- 6. Regionalization of FMD vaccine production
- 7. Vaccine bank
- 8. Cost benefit study on vaccination policy in Europe
- 9. Review of current policies of the Commission
 - Importation of meat
 - Animal movement
- 10. Financial report and approval of budget
- 11. Future policy of the Commission
- 12. Any other business
- 13. Adoption of the draft Report of the Session

Item 2 Report of the Executive Committee to the Commission

The report on the Committee's activities during the period which has elapsed since the Twenty-sixth Session of the Commission held in Rome in April 1985, was presented by the Secretary.

The Committee reviewed the report and agreed that following some amendments it should be presented to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission in April 1987.

Item 3 FMD position in Europe during 1985-86

In reviewing the FMD situation in Europe, the Committee expressed its satisfaction in respect of the favourable disease situation. However, the Italian FMD epizootics had been a matter for considerable concern during the biennium.

As far as the Italian situation is concerned, see Item 3.2.

The Committee noted that the disease situation in Turkey (Anatolia) continued to cause serious problems and it was hoped that with the increase in vaccine production at the new vaccine plant in Ankara, Turkey would be in a position to extend its national programme for FMD prophylaxis and control (see Item 3.3).

The Committee reiterated that information on outbreaks should be provided immediately after detection.

Regarding the USSR, the Committee appreciated the information on the FMD situation provided by the national veterinary services. Information on the policy applied and the numbers of cases and of animals involved in outbreaks reported was also considered to be important.

Item 3.1 Prophylaxis in Europe

The Committee considered that the present prophylaxis programme should continue in Europe. However, attention should be given to vaccination of animals especially those intended for export to areas where the disease is present taking into account the requirements of the importing country.

The Committee underlined the necessity of effective inactivation of vaccine and testing to establish innocuity in order to avoid the risk of virus introduction through vaccination.

The use of the most appropriate inactivant should be given due consideration by the vaccine producers.

Item 3.2 FMD situation in Italy

The FMD situation in Italy was discussed at various Sessions of the FAO European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and of its Executive Committee.

The action taken by the Commission to assist the Italian authorities to face the FMD situation was as follows:

- At the request of the Italian Veterinary Services an Ad hoc meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the occasion of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Berlin in September 1986.
- An FAO/EUFMD mission visited Italy from 6 to 10 October 1986 to review/discuss the FMD situation.
- The Report of this mission was formally presented to the Director-General of the Italian Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Health in Rome on 10 November 1986.
- The Secretary of the Commission presented the mission report in five meetings held at regional level in Italy from 29 November to 12 December 1986.

The collaboration and assistance provided by the Director-General of the Italian Veterinary Services and the regional veterinary authorities for the successful implementation of the EUFMD missions in Italy was greatly appreciated.

The Committee recommended that the Italian case should be studied in depth by the Commission and an analysis of the problems encountered by the Italian local, regional and national Veterinary Services should be made in order that similar situations be avoided in the future.

The Committee endorsed the FAO/EUFMD mission report on the FMD situation in Italy and all action taken especially by the Secretary in this respect. In addition, the Committee recommended that as requested by the Italian Veterinary Authorities, the reports related to the Italian FMD situation, including those of the three experts and all action taken in this respect be presented for discussion to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission. The Secretary was requested to prepare a summary of the relevant reports to facilitate the discussion.

Item 3.3 Vaccination campaigns

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the vaccination campaigns in the buffer zone during 1985 and 1986, and for the arrangements made for the provision of the vaccine for 1987. This was carried out in conformity with the recommendation made by the FAO/EEC/OIE FMD Group and the request of the countries concerned with the buffer zone.

The Committee noted that for the 1987 campaigns no vaccine would be required for Turkey since sufficient locally produced vaccine would be made available for vaccination in the buffer zone and the remainder of the Turkish Thrace area.

The Committee recommended that the vaccination campaigns in the buffer zone should continue. However, the Committee expressed its concern regarding the second vaccination carried out by Turkey in the buffer zone in 1986 without prior consultation of the countries concerned with the buffer zone and the FAO/EEC/OIE FMD Group, as recommended by the Commission at its Twenty-sixth Session in 1985.

The Committee endorsed the proposal made by the FAO/EEC/OIE FMD Group at the meeting held on 4 December 1986 in Brussels for a mission to visit the buffer zone and the FMD laboratory in Turkey to discuss the FMD vaccination policy in this area.

Regarding the feasibility of evaluating the level of immunity in vaccinated animals in the buffer zone, the Committee, taking into account the opinion of the Research Group, agreed that the Secretary collect data on the distribution of herds, herd composition, and stocking density in the buffer zone area in order to allow the Research Group to study this matter.

Item 3.4 FMD position in other regions

The Committee in reviewing and discussing the FMD situation in other regions expressed concern regarding the FMD situation in the Near East region since it represents an important reservoir of FMD virus of types exotic for Europe and poses a potential threat to the livestock industry in Europe.

The Committee stressed that efforts should be made by the Commission and the International Organizations concerned to obtain more reliable and detailed information on the incidence of the disease, on the virus strains present in the Near East and the epidemiological factors contributing to disease persistence in this region.

The Committee recommended that the Commission should devote special attention to this region and through FAO provide technical assistance to the programmes carried out in this region in the field of FMD control and eradication.

Item 4 Swine Vesicular Disease

The Committee noted the favourable disease situation in Europe, and recommended that countries should continue to monitor the disease.

Item 5 Activities of the Research Group

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out by the Research Group and the valuable advice provided to the Commission especially in connection with the items referred to the Group for study.

The Committee recommended that the Group should continue and extend its study of the immunity to FMD vaccine in young animals, including pigs and small ruminants.

The requirements for innocuity testing of FMD vaccine (draft proposal for the European Pharmacopoeia) should be discussed at the Session of the Research Group to be held in autumn 1987.

Following the proposal made by the Research Group at the Session held in Madrid in October 1986, the Committee recommended that the seed virus stock held at AVRI, Pirbright, should be disposed of.

The guidelines proposed by the Research Group on methodology for investigating the origin of infection in FMD outbreaks was accepted and the Committee agreed that it be submitted to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission for consideration and approval.

Regarding the question of identification of vaccine strains used in Europe, the Committee decided that the information provided by the countries in response to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretary, should be sent to the World Reference Laboratory. The WRL should be requested to supplement it with available data on serological and immunological relationship of these strains. All information in this respect would be discussed at the next Session of the Research Group in autumn 1987.

The Committee requested that the Research Group should discuss the possibility of studying the effect of immunodepressive drugs such as cortico steroids administered to animals following vaccination against FMD.

Item 6 Regionalization of FMD vaccine

The Committee reviewed and discussed the actual situation of the regionalization of FMD vaccine production especially the provision of vaccine for use in the buffer zone.

The Committee considered that pending adoption of the recommendation agreed by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Berlin, GDR, September 1986) by the OIE General Session in May 1987, it was not necessary for the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease to discuss this matter further at this stage.

Item 7 Vaccine Bank

Dr. Rees, U.K., provided information on the position of an International Bank for FMD vaccine set up at the AVRI, Pirbright, U.K., with the participation of seven countries. The possibility for ASIA-1 type to be included in the Bank will be discussed by the Bank Commission in the near future (types 0, C, A22 and A24 are presently included in the Bank).

The vaccine reconstitution and bottling capacity is 100,000 cattle doses per day.

Dr. Rees stated that consideration could be given if other countries wished to join the Bank or use the facilities of the Bank for their vaccine. In this case, appropriate financial arrangements would need to be agreed with the Commission of CVO's responsible for operating the Bank.

The Committee fully supports the concept of the Bank and other countries should consider the advantages of a vaccine bank particularly in relation to exotic strains of virus.

Item 8 Guide to the economic evaluation of FMD vaccination programmes

The Committee having examined the final document presented as amended by the Working Group, and taking into account the results of the exercise carried out by seven countries, considered that this general model is well prepared and should be submitted to the Commission member countries for carrying out the study if they so wish.

The results of such a study, whatever they may be, should be considered in the light of the benefit they represent for the country concerned.

The model cost benefit analysis and exercise carried out by the seven participating member countries should be submitted to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission for consideration and approval.

It was agreed that the model and the studies should be circulated to member countries prior to the Session.

The Committee requested that Dr. G. Davies should be present at the Twenty-seventh Session during discussion of this point.

The Committee is prepared to provide assistance in carrying out such a study if it is requested by any member country.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Working Group and to the countries which have carried out the exercise for the excellent work done.

Item 9 Review of current policies of the Commission

The Committee discussed the revised recommendation on proposed conditions for importation of beef into Europe from countries where foot-and-mouth disease is endemic and is caused by viruses not considered exotic to Europe.

It was agreed that a number of minor amendments should be included in the final text which will be submitted for adoption at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission.

The revised text of the recommendation on Movement of slaughter stock and meat from areas where exotic strains of FMD virus have occurred or inactivated exotic vaccine were applied had not been received prior to the meeting. The Committee therefore recommended that the revised text as soon as available should be sent by the Secretary to the members of the Executive Committee for consideration prior to being presented to the Twenty-seventh Session for approval and adoption.

Item 10 Financial report and approval of budget

The Administrative Assistant presented (a) pledge position as at 31 December 1986 (prov.), (b) breakdown of actual expenditure against approved budget for 1986 (prov.), and (c) proposed budget for 1987.

a) Pledge position as at 31 December 1986

Arrears as of 31 December 1986 were noted. The Committee exhorted member countries to ensure that contributions were deposited in line with the Constitution i.e. before the end of the first month of the year to which they apply (Art. XIII).

b) Breakdown of expenditure/approved budget 1986

The Committee was informed that a more detailed breakdown of expenditure, especially as regards Commission missions to Italy in 1986, would be made available to the Twenty-seventh Session.

c) Proposed budget for 1987

The Committee having examined the proposed budget for 1987, made the following adjustments:

Contractual Services

Contribution to the World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright, to be increased from US\$ 8,000 to US\$ 10,000. It was considered that FAO should give a matching contribution as was the case heretofore.

Supplies and materials

(Special Functions, Art. V. of the Constitution) It was agreed that an amount of US\$ 18,000 be earmarked for this purpose.

Fellowships/Study Tours

It was agreed that the amount set aside for fellowships should be increased from US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 6,000.

The Committee, following a brief discussion and clarification of a number of points by the Administrative Assistant, approved the provisional financial report as presented with the exception of the allocation of US\$4,000 for temporary staff, it being understood that this point would be further discussed at the Twenty-seventh Session.

The Committee also requested that a breakdown of the savings accrued in 1986 be made available to the Twenty-seventh Session.

9042.00 MIF/INT/001/MUL - International European
Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Pledge Position at 31 December 1986 (Provisional)
(expressed in U.S. Dollars)

<u>Government of</u>	<u>Outstanding 31/12/85</u>	<u>Contributions 1986</u>	<u>Received at 31/12/86</u>	<u>Outstanding 31/12/86</u>
AUSTRIA	0.00	4,270.96	4,270.96	0.00
BELGIUM	0.00	7,118.28	7,118.28	0.00
BULGARIA	0.00	2,135.48	2,135.48	0.00
CYPRUS	0.54	711.82	711.82	0.54
CZECHOSLOVAKIA*	0.00	4,270.96	4,270.96	0.00
DENMARK	0.00	7,118.28	7,118.28	0.00
FINLAND	0.00	4,270.96	4,270.96	0.00
FRANCE	-5,694.62	14,236.56	8,541.94	0.00
GERMANY	0.00	14,236.56	14,236.56	0.00
GREECE	0.00	2,135.48	2,174.11	-38.63
HUNGARY	0.00	4,270.96	4,270.96	0.00
ICELAND	0.00	711.82	711.82	0.00
IRELAND	0.00	2,135.48	2,135.48	0.00
ITALY	4,289.70	14,236.56	19,063.75	-537.49
LUXEMBOURG	0.00	711.82	711.82	0.00
MALTA	0.00	711.82	711.82	0.00
NETHERLANDS	0.00	7,118.28	7,118.28	0.00
NORWAY	2,135.48	2,135.48	4,270.96	0.00
POLAND	14,236.56	7,118.28	0.00	21,354.84
PORTUGAL	0.00	2,135.48	2,135.48	0.00
SPAIN	8,827.08	7,118.28	12,253.58	3,691.78
SWEDEN	0.00	7,118.28	7,118.28	0.00
SWITZERLAND	0.00	7,118.28	7,118.28	0.00
TURKEY	3,360.38	4,270.96	0.00	7,631.34 **
UNITED KINGDOM	-5,694.62	14,236.56	8,541.94	0.00
YUGOSLAVIA	0.00	4,270.96	4,270.96	0.00
	<u>21,460.50</u>	<u>145,924.64</u>	<u>135,282.76</u>	<u>32,102.38</u>

* Czechoslovakia member as of 1 January 1986

** Turkey made following deposits without specifying Number of Trust Fund to which contributions should be credited:

	US\$
18.6.79	2,933.84
28.7.81	7,736.44
2.10.81	620.54
	<u>11,290.82</u>

This amount is being held in a suspense account pending clarification by the Turkish authorities of the use for which it was intended.

Trust Fund 9042 - Administrative Budget for 1987

(Ch. I - Administrative expenditure under Articles IV and XIII.3)

<u>.10 Personal Services</u>	<u>US\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
01. P5 Animal Health Officer (12 months)	75 000	
G6 Admin. Assistant (12 months)	39 000	
03. Temp. assistance G2 (2 months)	4 000 *	
05. Overtime - for staff in connection with Twenty-seventh Session	1 500	
	-----	119 500
.14 <u>Home leave</u> Secretariat biennial entitlement		3 000
.20 <u>Travel</u> - Secretariat, Chairman, and Members of Exec. Comm. when required		22 000
.30 <u>Contractual Services</u> - services by World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright, for 1987		10 000
.40 <u>General operating expenses</u>		
.45 Hospitality	1 000	
.49 Miscellaneous	500	
	-----	1 500

(Ch. II - Emergency expenditure under Art.V of the Constitution)

.50 <u>Supplies and Materials</u> (Special Functions/Art.V of the Constitution)		18 000
Pledged 1987	US\$ 145 925**	
Prov. Balance 31.12.86	US\$ 69 144	
	-----	-----
	<u>215 069</u>	<u>174 000</u>
	Balance US\$	41 069
		=====
	SPECIAL ACCOUNT	
.20 <u>Travel</u> - Research Group		10 000
.30 <u>Contractual Services</u> - Collaborative Laboratory Study		15 000
.34 <u>Publication of Brochure</u>		6 000
.80 <u>Fellowships/study tours</u>		6 000
	Uncommitted balance	4 069
		=====
	US\$	41 069
		=====

* subject to approval by the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission

** This figure does not include the contribution of Albania which joined the Commission in November 1986. The Executive Committee at its Forty-ninth Session recommended, subject to the approval of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission, that Albania be placed in the VI Category and that the annual contribution should be placed at US\$ 711.82. This would bring the total amount pledged for 1987 up to US\$ 146,636.

Item 11 Future policy of the Commission

It was agreed that the following points should be given priority:

1. An in-depth analysis of the Italian FMD situation. (Item 3.2)
2. Maintenance of the buffer zone to be continued. (Item 3.3)
3. Cost-benefit analysis; following discussion and approval of the proposed model at the Twenty-seventh Session, assistance to be provided by the Commission to those countries wishing to carry out the study. (Item 8)
4. Setting up of guidelines for total or partial stamping out during FMD outbreaks, including disposal methods. (Item 3.2)
5. Setting up of guidelines for hygienic standards on large holdings; Secretary to collect relevant data from member countries. (Item 3.2)
6. Compilation of summary of Commission recommendations since its establishment. (Item 13)
7. Focusing of efforts in the Near East area in the field of FMD and provision of technical advice through FAO if requested. (Item 3.4)
8. Strengthening of technical collaboration with FAO in FMD programmes, including training courses/seminars. (Item 3.4)

Item 12 Any other business

Membership of the Commission

The Secretary informed the Committee that Albania had become a full member of the Commission as of 25 November 1986. The Committee recommended, subject to approval by the Twenty-seventh Session, that Albania be placed in the VI Category and that the annual contribution be set at US\$ 711.82.

The Committee rediscussed the wish of the government of Israel to become a member of the Commission. This matter had already been discussed at the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee held in Helsinki in April 1986. While no new factors had come to light in this respect, the Committee nevertheless was of the opinion that this matter should be brought to the notice of all member countries of the Commission at the forthcoming Twenty-seventh Session.

Administrative matters

The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the financial difficulties being encountered by FAO at present. The Committee was informed that it had been proposed that for future years the cost of printing and translation in connection with meetings of the Commission should be met on a fifty/fifty basis from FAO's Regular Programme and from the Commission's annual administrative budget.

The Committee, having examined this proposal, stated that it was unacceptable and requested the Secretariat to convey its regret to FAO in this respect.

Following discussion on the future policy of the Commission and the financial implications of the work to be carried out, the Committee drew attention to the fact that the uncommitted balance in the budget for 1987 left no margin for unforeseen expenditure. In addition, it was considered that the present inflationary trend had to be taken into account when considering the level of contributions of member countries.

The last increase in contributions had been agreed at the Twenty-fourth Session in 1981. The Committee agreed that the time had come to make provision for future years and if countries were not to be faced with a request for a substantial increase in contributions it would be advisable to consider the possibility of a small increase, as of 1988. It was felt that 5% may allow for a minimum reserve.

The Committee requested the Secretary to inform member countries of this proposal as soon as possible so that Delegates to the Twenty-seventh Session would be in a position to consider this proposal.

Monitoring of implementation of Commission recommendations by member countries

The Secretary presented the information received on member countries follow-up of the Commission's recommendations on:

- Manipulation of genetic material, and
- Minimum standards for security at FMD laboratories.

It was agreed that this information should be completed and presented to the Twenty-seventh Session.

The Committee considered that it would be useful to collect in one volume all the recommendations adopted by the Commission since its establishment; this would serve as a useful reference for member countries.

Date and place of Fiftieth Session

The date and place of the Fiftieth Session of the Executive Committee will be discussed at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Commission which will be held in Rome in April 1987.

Item 13 Adoption of the Report

The Report was adopted as presented. It was agreed that it would not be necessary to include any appendices since these would be submitted to the Twenty-seventh Session and thereafter included in the relevant Report.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the Swiss authorities for the very warm hospitality extended to the members of the Committee and for the excellent facilities provided for the conduct of the meeting.

