

## Final Report

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Webinar on: OIE international standards and tools to facilitate international movement of (competition) horses, procedures supporting the publication of self-declarations of animal health status and the official recognition of African horse sickness (AHS) free status

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#### **Objetifs de la mission / Aims of the meeting:**

To provide the participants with information on the OIE standards and tools developed to facilitate the movement of competition horses and the hosting of sport horse events. To provide guidance on the OIE standards and procedure for official recognition of African Horse Sickness (AHS) free status and to build Members' capacity on the preparation of dossiers and on the process for the publication on the OIE website of a self-declaration of animal health status or of an Equine Disease-Free Zone (EDFZ).

#### **Mots clés / Keywords:**

AHS, Animal health and welfare, Equine Disease-Free Zone, horse industry, official status, self-declarations, equine transport

#### **Participants du Siège / Participants from the OIE Headquarters**

Min-Kyung Park (Head of Department), Mauro Meske, Marija Popovic, Yoenten Phuentshok, Natalie Moyen (Disease Status Officers), Status Department

Lina Awada, Veterinary epidemiologist, World Animal Health Information and Analysis Depart

Gounalan Pavade, Scientific coordinator, Science Department

#### **Participants des RR/RSR ou experts OIE / Participants from the RR/SRR or OIE experts**

Ghazi Yehia, Representative, OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Mohamed Alhosani, Representative, OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi

Rita Rizk, OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Mehdi Brinsi, OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi

Tarek Taha, OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi

Ali El Romeh, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for the Middle East

Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa

Alessandro Ripani, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa

## **Contexte / Background:**

The OIE has developed Standard Operating Procedures for official recognition of animal health status. These procedures currently apply to six OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases, including African horse sickness. In addition, OIE Members also have the possibility to self-declare their country, or a zone or a compartment within their territory, free from diseases not included in the procedure for official recognition of animal health status. Should Delegates request it, the OIE offers to publish the self-declaration(s) on its website.

Based on the review of applications for official recognition of AHS free status and self-declarations submitted for publication, some Members face difficulties in preparing these respective dossiers, in particular, to provide the relevant information in accordance with the provisions of the relevant chapters of *the Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*) in order to support the claimed animal health status. Furthermore, based on Members' requests, the OIE notes the importance of providing guidance to Members on the procedure to apply for the publication by the OIE of a self-declaration of animal health status.

With reference to the OIE Standards and procedures to facilitate the international movement of (competition) horses, two workshops were held in 2019 in Rabat-Morocco and in Beirut-Lebanon. They were attended by participants from Veterinary Services, equestrian federations, and horse racing authorities. As a result, specific roadmaps have been drafted with activities to be implemented by the concerned parties to facilitate the movement of horses, especially sport horses, more safely and securely.

## **Résumé / Summary:**

It is important to note that horse sports events are important in several countries of the MENA region, the Members with AHS free status officially recognised by the OIE are Algeria, Cyprus, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates. In addition, Bahrain will be proposed for official recognition to the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in May 2022. The virtual workshop was attended by 62 participants. OIE Delegates and participants from the Veterinary Authorities in attendance were from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

Furthermore, the webinar counted with the participation of the Chair of Group VII of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), Sami Alduhami, and the deputy Secretariat General of the Asian Equestrian Federation, Abid Salim Khan Tarin, that is also a Member of Qatari National Equestrian Federation (NEF). Likewise, there were participants from NEF of FEI Group VII from Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

The two-day training course brought together international experts from the veterinary services and the horse industry, as well as officials responsible for the coordination of national animal health programmes and responsible for the development of national strategies for the control and eradication/elimination of equine diseases in their respective countries, and the veterinarians that would be involved in the preparation of applications for the AHS free status recognition.

The training course was held virtually in English (with simultaneous interpretation to Arabic and French). The training course combined oral presentations, interactive sessions and a practical exercise in order to ensure a comprehensive and useful learning experience for the participants. During the workshop, participants worked in groups through a case study with regard to the establishment of an Equine Disease-Free Zone (EDFZ) and the preparation and submission of an EDFZ dossier to the OIE for publication in the dedicated webpage for self-declarations. Presentations were also given with examples of information required when completing the application dossier for the recognition by the OIE of a free AHS status and the most common shortcomings identified.

The webinar also included two 'country experience' presentations, the first one was given by the Delegate of Egypt related to the preparation and submission for publication by the OIE of self-declarations of freedom from several equine disease, and the second one by the representative of Syria on the establishment of an EDFZ.

## **Commentaires / Comments:**

The level of interest of the participants on the presented topics was very high with contribution of constructive discussions and comments highlighting the relevant points related to OIE standards and procedure for

publication of a self-declaration, establishing an EDFZ or applying for the official recognition by the OIE of an AHS free status. There was also a good representation from colleagues from the horse industry.

### **Suites à donner / Follow-up:**

The roadmap and progress made on the activities by the countries were shared in advance of the workshop for participants' consideration and comments. The OIE Regional Representative, Dr Ghazi Yehia and the Chair of the FEO Group VII Mr Sami Alduhami agreed to have a continuous contact in the coming weeks to work towards the recommendations and activities of the roadmaps from the previous workshops during the summertime period in order to facilitate the movement of high health – high status horses during the season of horse sports competitions in the region.

A similar training workshop was requested by the Asian Equestrian Federation for Members in Asia.

### **Documents joints / Enclosed documents:**

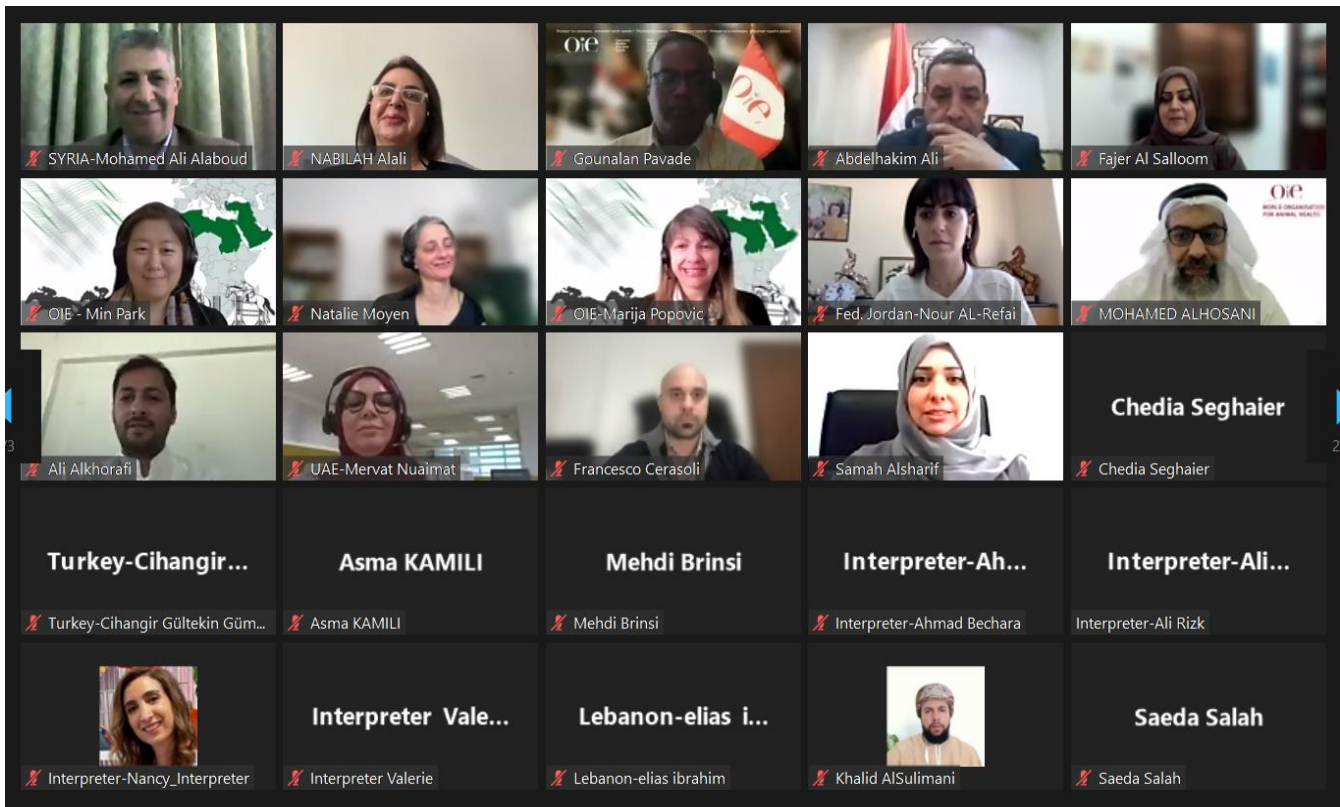
Annexes:

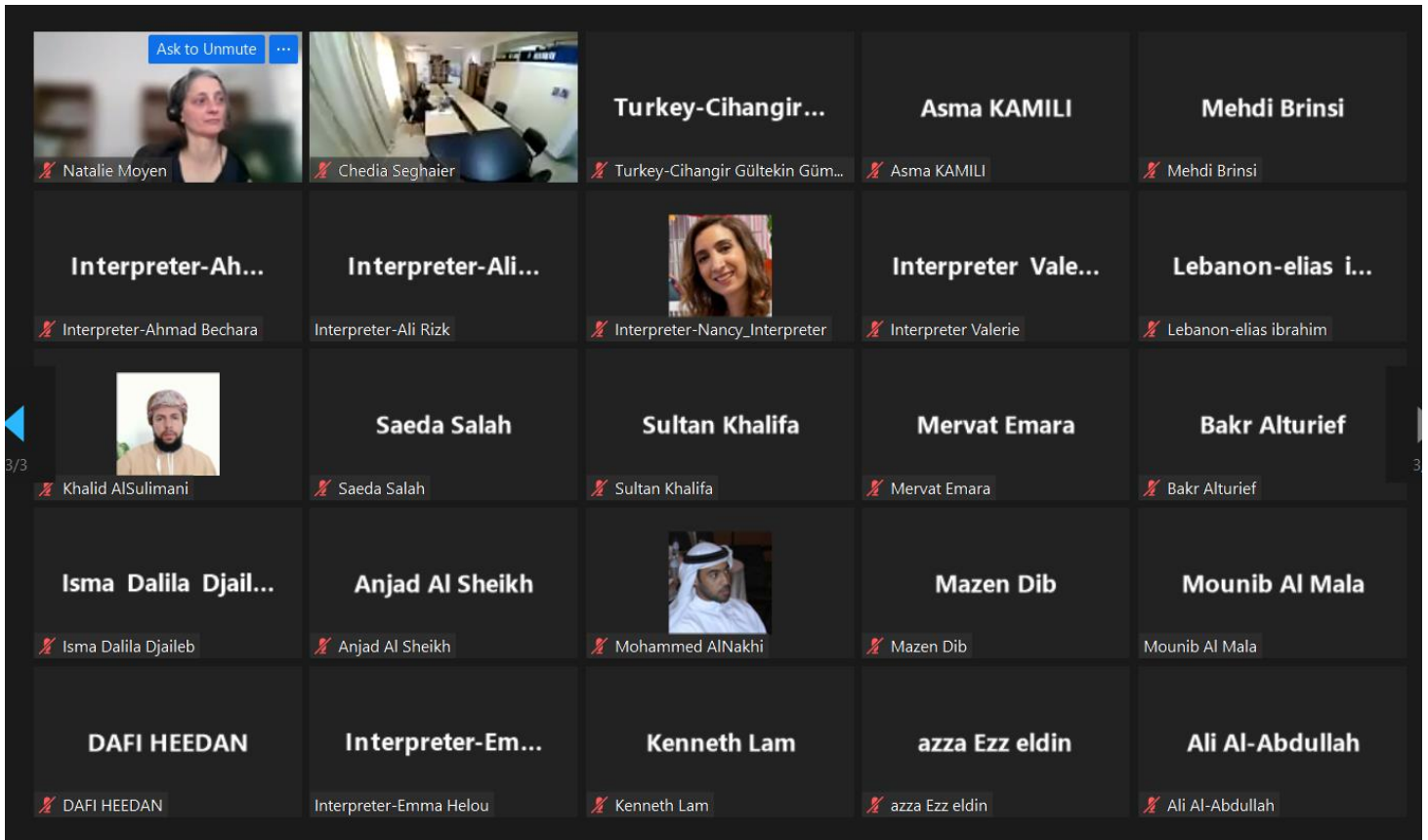
1. Programme / agenda
2. List of participants
3. Online resources:
  - OIE RR Middle East website:

[3rd Regional webinar on OIE international standards and tools to facilitate international movement of \(competition\) horses, procedures supporting the publication of self-declarations of animal health status and the official recognition of African horse sickness \(AHS\) free status](#)

**Personnalité(s) rencontrée(s) et sujet des entretiens / Key person(s) met and topics of discussion:**

Refer to the attached list of participants (**annex 2**)





Screen capture of some of the participants (montage).

## Annex 1. Agenda

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May		
Time allocation	Topic	Speaker/Moderator
08:00 – 08:15	Introduction and welcome addresses	(OIE G.Yehia)
08:15 – 09:15	Session 1: Equine animal Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equine diseases situation in MENA region. (15 min)</li> <li>- Risk Analysis on potential re-emergence of major equine diseases (15 min)</li> <li>- Standard tests for diagnosis of major equine diseases (15 min)</li> <li>- Role of the OIE Ref labs for diagnostics, proficiency tests and twinning programmes (15 min)</li> </ul>	Facilitator (M. Meske) L. Awada - OIE HQ WAHIAD  IZS Teramo P. Calistri  U. Wernery CVRL  G. Pavade – OIE HQ Sc. Dept.
11:15 – 11:35	- Transport and handling by Air, by Sea, and by land (20 min)	FEI Veterinary Director, G. Akerström
11:35 – 11:45	<b>Group Photo- Break</b>	
11:45 – 12:25	Session 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedure for the application for the publication by the OIE of a self-declaration, including Equine Disease-Free zone (20 min)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Country Sharing experience Syria: EDFZ (10 min)</li> <li>o Egypt: Self-declaration of freedom from different equine diseases (10 min)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Facilitator (M. Alhosani)  Y. Phuentshok/ M. Meske-OIE Status Dept.  Egypt - Syria
12:25 - 13:35 <b>Within Break (10 min)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group activity: Exercise (case study) on preparing a self-declaration of an EDFZ (30 min)</li> <li>- Presentation of the results of the exercise (EDFZ case study) and discussion (30 min)</li> </ul>	OIE Status Dept and participants  All

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

<p>08:00 – 08:20 10:00 – 10:20 CET</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General Requirements of the AHS Chapter of the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> and Standard Operating Procedures for official recognition of AHS Free Status and common shortcoming identified during the evaluation of applications</li> </ul>	<p>(Facilitator: M. Alhosani Cont.) M. Meske -OIE Status Dept.</p>
<p>08:20 – 09:35 10:20- 11:35 CET</p>	<p>Session 3: Interactive session-Movement of horses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Challenges on horse welfare. (20 min)</li> <li>- Case Study (Challenges on the transport of horses) (10 min)</li> <li>- Questionnaire Analysis and results (15 min)</li> <li>- Import and Export measures, quarantine, vaccination (15 min)</li> <li>- Health certification for temporally or permanent residence (15 min)</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitator: (M. Park)</p> <p>F. Cerasoli KSA, R. Al Duhami OIE RR ME, All T. Kettle D. Craig</p>
<p>09:35 – 09:45 11:35-11:45 CET</p>	<p>Break</p>	
<p>09:45 – 11:00 11:45- 13:00 CET</p>	<p>Session 4: Roadmap for Veterinary and sport Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Previous meetings recommendations</li> <li>- Discussion</li> <li>- The Way Forward</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitator: (G. Yehia) OIE HQ, RR, SRR OIE RR; FEI; Participants</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:20 13:00- 13:20 CET</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony</p>	

**Annex 2. List of participants (registered and attending)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Participants from Vet. Authorities</b>
Bahrain	Fajer AlSalloom
Bahrain	Abdulqadir Elsadiq
Egypt	Abdelhakim Mohamed Ali
Egypt	Mohamed Ezz eldine
Egypt	Azza Ezz eldine
Egypt	Mervat Emara
Iraq	Ali Al-Abdullah
Jordan	Rachel Dodeen
Jordan	Anjad Al Sheikh
Jordan	Saeda Salah
Kuwait	Saad Al Enazi
Kuwait	Ahmad El Mobaied
Lebanon	Elias Ibrahim
Lebanon	Mohamed Soukarieh
Morocco	Asma Kamili
Oman	Khalid AlSulimani
Oman	Samah AlSharif
Qatar	Noora Elmadi
Qatar	Dafi Heedan
Saudi Arabia	Baker Al Tureif
Syria	Mohamed Ali Alaboud
Syria	Mazen Dib
Syria	Mounib Al Mala
Syria	Shadi Bseseni
Tunisia	Chedia Seghaier
Turkey	Cihangir Gültekin Gümüštepe
Turkey	Kemal YILMAZ
UAE	Mervat Nuaimat
<b>Federations Group VII</b>	<b>Participants from horse industry</b>
Chair Group VII	Sami Alduhami
Jordan	Nour El-Refai
Jordan	Abdelrahman Talafha
Kuwait	Nabilah Alali
Kuwait	Ali Alkhorafi
Lebanon	Najib Chami
Saudi Arabia	Anas Hassan
Saudi Arabia	Salem Binmahfooz
Turkey	Bilun Biber
Tunisia	Mohamed Smaoui
UAE	Haitham Babiker
UAE	Ashraf Ellaithy
ASIANEF	Abid Salim Khan Tarin



<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Speakers from the horse industry</b>
Akerstrom	Göran Akerström
Al Duhaimi	Ramzy Al Duhaimi
Calistri	Paolo Calistri
Craig	David Craig
Kettle	Anthony Kettle
Cerasoli	Francesco Cerasoli
Wernery	Ulrich Wernery
<b>OIE- speakers</b>	<b>Speaker/ facilitator</b>
Awada	Lina
Mauro	Mauro
Pavade	Gounalan
Yehia	Ghazi Yehia
<b>Facilitators (OIE)</b>	
Alhosani	Mohamed
El Romeh	Ali
Tarek	Tarik Taha
Mehdi	Brinsi
Popovic	Marija
Phuentshok	Yoenten
Moyen	Natalie Moyen
Park	Min-Kyung Park
Ripani	Alessandro
Bouguedour	Rachid