

RAPPORT DE MISSION / MISSION REPORT

Nom du rédacteur / Name:

Morgane Dominguez, Neo Mapitse, Alessandro Ripani, Ghazi Yehia

Date et lieu du déplacement / Dates of the trip:

24 April 2019, Rabat, Morocco

Titre de la mission / Title of the mission:

OIE-IHSC Regional Workshop in support of temporary international movements of competition horses

Objet de la mission / Aim of the meeting:

Represent the OIE and co-organise the Regional Workshop in support of temporary international movements of competition horses with the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC).

This workshop intended to:

- Bring together representatives of National Veterinary Authorities, National Customs Administrations, National Equestrian Federations and National Racing Authorities to support further development of their necessary capacities for temporary movements of competition horses, primarily between the target countries of FEI Group VII;
- Collectively identify the priority issues impeding temporary movements of competition horses between the target countries of FEI Group VII;
- Identify in a participatory manner actions to be implemented by relevant national stakeholders to address the priority issues identified;
- Design “regional roadmaps” listing tasks for national stakeholders to support the timely implementation of the proposed actions.

Participants du Siège / Participants from the OIE Headquarters

Neo Mapitse, Head of Status Department

Morgane Dominguez, Status Department

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

Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for Middle East

Alessandro Ripani, Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa

Résumé / Summary

This workshop targeted Middle East and North African countries of FEI Group VII (plus Turkey) actively engaged in horse sports’ at international level.

It was attended by 34 participants, including representatives of :

- National Veterinary Authorities of 10 countries;
- National Customs Administrations of 5 countries;
- National Equestrian Federations of 5 countries;
- National Horseracing Authorities of 3 countries.

The agenda and list of participants are presented in appendixes 1 and 2, respectively.

- Facilitation of temporary importations of competition horses between target countries of FEI Group VII

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Prior to the workshop, the capacities of the National Veterinary Authorities were screened through a review of the PVS evaluations conducted in the target countries with a special focus on critical competencies of particular relevance for international movements of horses.

During the morning session of the workshop, the outcome of this assessment was summarised in plenary session and discussed in order to build a common vision of the priority issues impeding movements of horses between the target countries of FEI Group VII.

The main issues identified pertained to:

- The reinforcement of the collaboration between the four categories of stakeholders at national and regional levels,
- The notification and surveillance of (OIE-listed) equine diseases,
- The harmonised definition of risk-based sanitary requirements for the temporary importations of sport horses within countries of the FEI Group VII;
- The facilitation of border crossings, including through the appropriate equipment of border inspection posts.

The afternoon session of the workshop consisted in Group Work where participants formed four groups (i.e., Equestrian, Racing, Veterinary Authorities, and Customs). In each Group, participants worked jointly to develop a roadmap listing actions to address the priority issues, with timelines and indicators

The OIE representatives took part of the Group of the National Veterinary Authorities. This Group, chaired by Dr Asma Kamili, Morocco, came up with a number of priority actions with timelines and indicators, as presented in [appendix 3](#).

To conclude the workshop, each Group presented its roadmap at a plenary wrap-up session, and participants discussed the way forward for the coordination of the implementation of the roadmaps at national level between the different categories of stakeholders and at regional level between the various countries.

- Challenges for the temporary movements of competition horses outside of FEI Group VII

Difficulties faced for the temporary movements of competition horses to other regions of the world, in particular to the European Union (EU), were also raised and discussed.

Three (North) African countries (i.e., Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) and four Middle East countries (i.e., Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates) are recognised officially free from African horse sickness (AHS) by the OIE. Based on the Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/659 of 12 April 2018 on the conditions for the entry into the Union of live equidae and of semen, ova and embryos of equidae, all of these countries are categorised in the EU sanitary Group “E”, which means that specific requirements for AHS are required for entry of equids into the EU (i.e., pre-export isolation of at least 40 days and two serological tests for AHS prior to shipment).

If countries of the EU sanitary Group “E” are recognised officially free from AHS by the OIE AND are not adjacent to a country in which AHS has occurred during the period of 2 years prior to dispatch, the EU requirements for pre-export isolation and testing prior to shipment are -to a certain extent- less stringent but still apply (i.e., pre-export isolation can be in a non-vector proof establishment and only one test for AHS is required prior to shipment).

Overall, the officially free status from AHS recognised by the OIE for Middle East and African countries are not recognised by the EU. This had already been raised at other international meetings (e.g. Remesa, November 2018; International Movements of Horses Committee (IMHC), December 2018) where the European Commission invited those countries recognised officially free from AHS wishing modifications to the current EU import requirements to make contact with the European Commission for an expert mission to be deployed to assess the situation in the countries and related borders as part of a new risk assessment.

In addition, participants emphasised that the Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/659 also includes conditions related to West Nile fever which are not in accordance with Chapter 8.19 of the *Terrestrial Code* which recommends that “*Member Countries should not impose trade restrictions on dead-end hosts such as horses*”.

The representative of IHSC stated that they will contact the EU to raise the matter related to the difficulties faced by countries that have been officially recognised by the OIE as free from AHS.

Commentaires / Comments

Overall, this workshop was considered fruitful both by the participants and the organisers.

This one-day workshop represented an important catalyzer to create common grounds between stakeholders and between target countries. However, actual progress towards safe and facilitated international movements of competition horses will only result from the actual actions that will be implemented by national stakeholders along the roadmaps defined at the workshop. Dr Y. Ghazi will play a key role in overseeing the implementation of the FEI Group VII roadmap by the Veterinary Authorities.

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

See list of participants (Appendix 2)

Suites à donner / Follow-up:

An OIE Regional Training Seminar on: "*OIE standards and procedure to facilitate international movements of (competition) horses*" is planned in Beirut, Lebanon, from 13 to 15 June 2019. Whilst it was initially envisioned that this workshop would only target Middle East countries, it was proposed that the three North African countries which attended this OIE-IHSC workshop (i.e., Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) be also invited to the OIE Training Seminar. This would allow for a follow up of the OIE-IHSC workshop in support of the implementation of the roadmap of the Veterinary Authorities.

The OIE sub-regional representation for North Africa intends to organise a side meeting at the 87th OIE General Session between the EU and the three North African countries recognised officially free from AHS to further discuss the EU import conditions applicable to AHS.

The World Customs Organisation will be informed of the outcomes of this workshop, in particular of the roadmap developed by National Customs Administrations.

Documents joints / Enclosed documents:

N/A

Appendix 1: Agenda

Tuesday 23 April 2019		
Time	Topic	
19:00-21:00	Welcome Reception by the Royal Moroccan Federation of Equestrian Sports and the Royal Society of Horse Encouragement	
Wednesday 24 April 2019		
Opening Session		
Chair: J. Mc Ewen		
08:00-08:15	Registration of participants	
08:15-08:30	Welcome remarks by the hosting country	O. Skalli
	Welcome remarks by the hosting country	A. Abrak
	Opening by OIE Regional/Sub Regional Representatives	Y. Ghazi
08:30-08:35	Objectives of the workshop	G. Akerström
First plenary session		
Chair: H. Debbagh		
08:35-08:45	Importance of international equestrian sports and racing in the region and potential benefits of facilitated safe temporary movements	FEI representative P.M Gadot
08:45-08:55	Requirements for equine diseases notification to the OIE and situation of equine diseases notifiable to the OIE in target countries	Y. Ghazi
08:55-09:05	OIE tools to facilitate safe horse movements: equine disease free zones (EDFZ) and High health high performance (HHP) framework	M. Dominguez
09:05-09:15	Update on the development of AHS vaccines	J. McEwen
09:15-09:20	Consequences of the Brexit	J. McEwen
09:20-09:30	Discussion	
09:30-10:00	Group Photo & Coffee/Tea Break	
Second plenary session		
Chair: B. Fakir		
10:00-10:15	Industry's capacities for safe horse movements	G. Akerström
10:15-10:30	Discussion – issues to be addressed in priority through the Regional Roadmap –	G. Akerström
10:30-10:45	Veterinary Services' capacities for safe horse movements: outcomes from the PVS evaluations conducted in target countries	A. Ripani
10:45-11:00	Discussion – issues to be addressed in priority through the Regional Roadmap	G. Akerström

11:00-11:20	Concerns of customs for safe and easy international movement of horses and tools to be considered to facilitate borders crossing (e.g. ATA Carnet)	O. Soysanli (recorded)
11:20-11:30	Concerns of the industry with respect to quick borders crossing	Y. Motemri
11:30-11:40	Concerns of veterinary authorities with respect to borders crossing, experience of a country	Y. Ghazi
11:40-11:50	Concerns of veterinary authorities with respect to borders crossing, experience of Morocco	A. Kamili
11:50-12:05	Discussion – issues to be addressed in priority through the Regional Roadmap	G. Akerström
12:05-12:20	Wrap up of the morning session: list of priority issues	G. Akerström
12:20-12:30	Introduction of the afternoon session: Group work - methodology and objectives	G. Akerström
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
Group work		
13:30-15:30	Equestrian sport - Solutions to address the priority issues	Chairman and Rapporteur: TBC
	Racing – Solutions to address the priority issues	Chairman and Rapporteur: TBC
	Veterinary Authorities – Solutions to address the priority issues	Chairman and Rapporteur: TBC
	National Customs Administrations	Chairman and Rapporteur: TBC
15:30-15:45	Coffee/Tea Break	
Third plenary session		
Chair: G. Akerström		
15:45-16:00	Wrap up “Equestrian sport” – plenary presentation	Rapporteur
16:00-16:15	Wrap up “Racing” – plenary presentation	Rapporteur
16:15-16:30	Wrap up “Veterinary Authorities” – plenary presentation	Rapporteur
16:30-16:45	Wrap up “National Customs Administrations” - plenary presentation	Rapporteur
16:45-17:30	Discussion and way forward for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap, including roles and responsibilities, secretariat, regional monitoring	
19:30-21:00	Reception by the Royal Moroccan Federation of Equestrian Sports and the Royal Society of Horse Encouragement	

Appendix 2: List of participants

National Equestrian Federations

- D. Bint Nahar bin Saud Bin Abdulaziz (Saudi Arabia)
- B. Fakir (Morocco)
- A. Hasan (Saudi Arabia)
- N. Kalathil Peedikakkal (Oman)
- M. S. Seoud (Qatar)
- A. Tweissi (United Arab Emirates)

National or Regional Horse Racing Authorities

- R. Keskin (Turkey)
- D. Craig (United Arab Emirates)
- H. Debbagh (Morocco)

National Veterinary Authorities

- N. Ahmad Hassan (Egypt)
- I. Alatiem (Jordan)
- N. Alharbi (Saudi Arabia)
- A. Al Sahaf (Saudi Arabia)
- A. El Abrak (Morocco)
- A. Kamili (Morocco)
- C.G. Gumustepe (Turkey)
- H. Marrakchi (Tunisia)
- F.M. Mestar (Algeria)
- B. Mohsen (Syria)
- M. Sokarie (Lebanon)
- A.S.M. Staiti (Palestine)

National Customs Administrations

- J. Abughauch (Palestine)
- H. Dindar Koç (Turkey)
- J. Helali (Tunisia)
- N. Houtate (Morocco)
- M. Moheidat (Jordan)

International Horse Sports Confederation

- G. Akerström (FEI)
- R. Devolz (IFHA)
- P.M. Gadot (IFHA)
- J. McEwen (FEI)

OIE

- M. Dominguez (OIE HQ, Status Department)
- N. J. Mapitse (OIE HQ, Status Department)
- A. Ripani (OIE RSR North Africa)
- G. Yehia (OIE RR Middle-East)

Appendix 3: “Roadmap” for Veterinary Authorities

Acronyms:

NCA: national customs administrations

NF: national equestrian federation

NRA: national horseracing authorities

NVA: national veterinary authorities

Objective	Action	Stakeholders to be involved	Stakeholder responsible	Timeline for implementation	Measurable indicator of successful implementation
Formalise public private partnership at national level (equine industry, NVA, NCA)	Sign a formalised Agreement with well-defined goals and objectives	NVA NF NRA Private veterinarians	NVA	6 months, and continuous afterwards	Signed agreement
	Regular national coordination meetings (3 times a year) and close communication as planned in the Agreement	NVA NF NRA Private veterinarians	NVA	2 years, and continuous afterwards	Number of national coordination meeting per year
Enhance collaboration of NVAs within FEI Group VII (e.g., focal points, in particular at border areas)	Identification of all relevant NVA contacts (“focal points”) and centralisation in a database of contacts	NVA	NVA	6 months, and regular updates afterwards	Database of contacts created and updated
	Regular regional coordination meetings of focal points	NVA	NVA	6 months, and continuous afterwards	Number of regional coordination meeting per year
Ensure regulatory notifiability of OIE listed equine diseases	Develop and enforce the regulatory framework to support the immediate notification of OIE listed equine diseases by horses’ owners and private veterinarians to the NVA	NVA Private veterinarians Private sector	NVA	6 months	Regulatory framework published and enforced

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Strengthen disease reporting	Reinforce disease surveillance network in support of disease notification (focal points) and implement awareness activities	NVA Private veterinarians Private sector	NVA	6 months	Nomination of focal points for international notification
Develop risk-based sanitary requirements for international movements based on OIE standards	Collect all information needed in support of the risk analysis including wahis and pvs reports	NVA	NVA	2 years	Publication of risk assessment and contingency plans for priority diseases
Harmonise veterinary certificates for temporary importations of sports horses within countries of FEI Group VII (including transit & round trip)	Harmonise national regulations in accordance with the OIE requirements (Terrestrial Code)	NVA	NVA	6 months	Harmonised veterinary certificates
Harmonise testing protocols and methods in accordance with the OIE Manual	Harmonise national regulations in accordance with the OIE requirements (Terrestrial Manual)	NVA Including vet. Lab.	NVA	6 months	Harmonised veterinary certificates
Harmonise vaccination protocols	Harmonise national regulations in accordance with the OIE requirements (Terrestrial Manual and Terrestrial Code)	NVA	NVA	6 months	Harmonised veterinary certificates
Harmonise the requirements for quarantine/isolation periods	Harmonise national regulations in accordance with the OIE requirements (Terrestrial Code)	NVA	NVA	6 months	Harmonised veterinary certificates
Implement full traceability of equids	Implement the registration and identification of all equids	NVA	NVA	1 year	All equids registered
Ensure availability of staff, resources, and infrastructures for veterinary controls at border inspection posts	Develop policies to ensure that border inspection posts are equipped with appropriate	NVA	NVA	1 year	Number of border inspection posts adequately equipped and with the

	infrastructures and that a veterinarian is permanently posted at border inspection posts				permanence of a veterinary officer
Strengthen capacities of the veterinary services (e.g. PVS pathway)	Undergo PVS evaluations	NVA OIE	NVA	2 years	Number of PVS evaluations conducted in countries of FEI Group VII