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(Information)

INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the World Organisation
For Animal Health (OIE) concerning their general relations**

(2011/C 241/01)

The EUROPEAN COMMISSION, hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission', and

The WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH,

hereinafter referred to as 'OIE',

DETERMINED to

- Further develop their cooperation which was formally established in the exchange of letters between the Commission and the OIE in 2004 and broadened during recent years,

CONSIDERING that

- The Commission has been granted an observer status to the OIE,
- A framework agreement aimed at adapting the Standard Contribution Agreement and simplifying the contractual negotiations of individual contribution-specific agreements was concluded between the Commission and the OIE in 2010,
- The Commission and the OIE intend to further develop their cooperation and especially acknowledge the need to exchange information through more formalised procedures and this has already been acknowledged in an exchange of letters in 2010,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Commission provides a 'contact point' for all technical or specialist matter concerning the OIE. This contact point shall be maintained by the Commission's director responsible for animal health and animal welfare.
2. (a) The OIE agrees to address the Commission on technical or specialist matters through the contact point. OIE agrees in particular to send to the contact point communications concerning agendas or reports of experts meetings of all kinds, questionnaires, announcements of or invitations to conferences. In case of technical or specialist matters or communication concerning directly other personnel of the Commission, the OIE agrees to send a copy to the contact point.

(b) The Commission agrees to address OIE through its Director General. The Commission agrees to send to the OIE Director General communication concerning announcements of or invitations to technical or specialist conferences. In case of communication concerning directly other personnel of OIE, the Commission agrees to send a copy to the OIE Director-General. The Commission agrees that technical or specialist matters concerning the OIE Region of Europe are followed through the sub-regional office of the OIE in Brussels.

3. (a) The OIE agrees that the contact point, or a representative, participate in the following events as specified below:
- OIE sessions, meetings and conferences.
 - With at least two delegates at the Advisory Committee of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, subject to the fulfilment of related financial conditions.
 - With at least two accompanying experts at the Global Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).
- (b) The Commission agrees that the OIE Director-General, or a representative, participate in the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health, especially in the Animal Health Advisory Committee.
4. (a) The Commission agrees to promote participation of its experts in technical or specialist OIE conferences and meetings, including their participation as private experts in ad hoc and working groups.
- (b) The OIE agrees to promote participation of its experts in technical or specialist meetings, trainings or conferences organised by the Commission.

Done in duplicate at Brussels, 18 August 2011.

For the European Commission

John DALLI

Member of the Commission

For the World Organisation for Animal Health

Bernard VALLAT

Director-General
