



Why and how to get involved in OIE standard setting – the EU perspective

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European
Commission

The European Union



28 Member States

+ 4 million km²

+ 500 million citizens

24 official languages

5 Candidate Countries

3 Potential Candidates

4 EFTA Countries



EU Policies

Communication... Enterprise & Industry... Transport...
Justice, Freedom & Security... Information Society
& Media... Environment... Economic & Monetary Affairs...
Regional Policy... Fisheries/Maritime... Science & Research...
Education Training & Culture... **Health & Food Safety**
Consumer protection... Enlargement... Development &
Humanitarian Aid... Taxation &
Customs Union... Competition... **Agriculture & Rural**
Development... External Relations... Internal Market...
Employment & Social Affairs... Trade...
Energy... **Multilingualism**

The EU single market

Fundamental objective of the European Union

*'Free movement' of people, goods, services and capital
across internal EU borders*

*EU citizens can live, work, study and do business
throughout the EU*

'4 freedoms' put in place by 1993

*28 Member States + 3 EFTA countries = European
Economic Area (EEA)*

A single market for goods

Free movement of goods in the single market (Intra-Union trade) may be restricted only in exceptional cases (e.g. risks to animal and public health, environment, or consumer protection)

Once allowed into the EU, goods can be traded in any Member State / EEA country – this includes live animals and animal products

→ Pre-condition: appropriate veterinary legislation

Why OIE Coordination in the EU (1)

Gradual harmonisation of veterinary measures at EU level with transfer of competences to EU institutions (since 1964)

Animal Disease Notification System (1982)

Creation of the internal market (1993)

Standing Veterinary Committee / SCoFCAH (2002) / SCoPAFF (2014)

New EU Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)
& New Animal Health Law (2016)

Why OIE Coordination in the EU (2)

Importance of International Standards for EU:

Harmonised EU legislation in the veterinary field (*animal health; animal welfare; veterinary public health*)

Relevant for intra-EU trade (*internal market*)

Relevant for import and export policies

Growing global trade and possible disputes

Why OIE Coordination in the EU (3)

Principles of the new EU Animal Health Law:

“Prevention is better than cure”

Partnership

Prioritisation & categorisation of diseases

Modern legal framework

Improved convergence with OIE standards

→ Involvement in OIE standard setting is crucial for the EU

Responsibilities in the EU (1)

Definition, elaboration, harmonisation of the SPS and trade policies: EU, under European Commission initiative

28 EU Member States are Members of the OIE

European Commission has observer status since 2004 & signed MoU with OIE in 2011

Close cooperation & coordination with EFTA & candidate countries

Responsibilities in the EU (2)

Coordination at different levels:

Experts: SCoPAFF and Working Groups for implementing rules

Chief Veterinary Officers: permanent Council working party and *ad hoc* meetings for strategy

Result: at the OIE, the EU systematically speaks with one voice "on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU"

Procedures for OIE coordination (1)

Example: OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes

(Similar procedure in place for the OIE Manuals)

1. OIE sends reports of the meetings of the Code Commission / Aquatic Animals Commission to OIE Member Countries and organisations with which it has signed collaboration agreements

Procedures for OIE coordination (2)

2. DG SANTE elaborates first draft EU comments or positions and sends them to MSs
3. A specific “**OIE Coordination Working Group**” of experts meets in Brussels (*EC & MSs + EFTA countries = “Commission working group”*), and further elaborates draft EU comments

Procedures for OIE coordination (3)

4. Draft is proposed to **CVOs**, which discuss and **validate EU written comments or positions and speaking notes at Council working party**

5. Regular exchanges with other countries or regions (*Europe Region; Africa; QUADS; ME*)

6. The agreed written comments or positions are **sent to the OIE**

Procedures for OIE coordination (4)

7. And published on the **DG SANTE website**:
(*Google search: "europa.eu" and "OIE"*)

8. At the annual OIE General Session, **EU speaking notes** are split between the CVO of the rotating EU Presidency and other MSs

9. On the spot coordination meetings of EU CVOs (+ *EFTA countries*) are held at the GS in Paris (*as well as with other countries / regions*)



HEALTH

FOOD

ANIMALS

PLANTS

AMR

INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRSWorld Trade Organisation
(WTO)International standard
setting bodies

Codex Alimentarius

World Organisation for
Animal Health (OIE)EU comments and
position papersInternational Plant
Protection Convention
(IPPC)Agreements with non-EU
countries

EU-Russia SPS issues

EU comments and position papers on
issues discussed in the OIE

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[EU comments](#)  on the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code following the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission meeting of February 2017 and prior to its next meeting in September 2017

[EU position](#)  on the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code to be proposed for adoption at the 85th General Session to be held in May 2017

[EU position](#)  on the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals to be proposed for adoption at the 85th General Session to be held in May 2017

[EU comments](#)  on the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code following the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission meeting of September 2016 and prior to its next meeting in February 2017

[EU comments](#)  on the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals following the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission meeting of September 2016 and prior to its next meeting in February 2017

OIE coordination – other European Commission involvement

OIE events and meetings (*General Session; Regional Commission Europe; Global conferences & Regional workshops; GF-TADs*)

Questionnaires for Technical Items

Choice of EU experts in OIE Specialist Commissions, working groups and *ad hoc* groups

Missions (*PVS pathway; CVET – CMC-AH*)

Example from other Regions

Africa: Positions delivered "on behalf of the 54 African OIE Member countries"

African Union IBAR PAN-SPSO project (2008-2012 and 2012-2014)

Europe: Positions delivered "on behalf of the 53 European OIE Member countries"

Regional Commission for Europe "Task Force" since 2012; "Regional Core Group" in 2017

Asia; Americas; Middle East

CONCLUSIONS

Increasing importance of international standards for trade

Active participation in International Standard Setting

Coordination of positions increases influence

Impact on implementation of standards

Invitation for sub-regional and regional cooperation

Thank you for your attention !

European Commission

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