

## **Working Group 1: Rescue & Quarantine; February 9, 2008**

### **Laws and systems already in place**

#### **CBD**

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was negotiated. CBD and Agenda 21 present today the legal and social framework for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. Meanwhile, the international treaty has been signed by 187 countries and the EU. The term "biodiversity" relates both to **"wild and domesticated species" (Art. 2, ff.)**. Thus, not only the diversity between species and between ecosystems is relevant, but also the diversity within species, that is breeds and varieties. Agro-biodiversity is an integral part of the CBD. The Conference of the Parties (COP) has compiled a program of work on the topic

**"Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity" (COP 3, decision III/11) in 1996**, because agro-biodiversity is of special importance in the entire biological system: interaction between environmental factors, production methods and genetic resources that occur in agricultural ecosystems contribute to the conservation of a dynamic stock of biological diversity.



**FAO**

#### **Global Plan of Action of Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration**

On September 11, 2007 delegates from 109 countries have adopted a Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, the first internationally agreed framework to halt the erosion of livestock diversity and support the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. This is the latest agreement.

#### ***EU Regulations on conservation of AnGR***

The EU legal frameworks related to conservation and animal breeding are as follows:

**Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999** on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) Opportunities to support conservation measures are to be further strengthened from 2007 onwards under

**Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005.** on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) The objective is to compensate farmers who provide environmental services for the "additional costs and income foregone ... [and where necessary] ... may cover also transaction cost" (Article 39:4). The regulation requires that Member Countries establish national strategy plans setting out details of agri-environmental payments.

#### **Regulation (EC) No. 817/2004**

In this regulation financial support for farmers rearing farm animals of "local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming" is regulated. Threshold population sizes, determining the eligibility of local breeds (of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equines or poultry) for inclusion in the scheme are set out in this regulation:

#### **Article 14**

1. Support may relate to the following commitments:
  - (a) to rear farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming; (b) to preserve plant genetic resources naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and under threat of genetic erosion.
2. The local breeds and plant genetic resources must play a role in maintaining the environment on the area to which the measure provided for in paragraph 1 applies. The eligible species of farm animals and the criteria for determining the threshold of loss to farming of local breeds are defined in the table in Annex I to this Regulation.

### **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1974/2006**

of 15 December 2006 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) contents in article 27 (4) rearing farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming.

Reg. 817:ANNEX I (Article 14) / Reg. 1974:ANNEX IV (Article 27,4)

Eligible farm animal species Thresholds under which a local breed is considered as being in danger of being lost to farming (number of breeding females \*):

Cattle 7.500

Sheep 10.000

Goat 10.000

Equidae 5.000

Pigs 15.000

Avian 25.000

- Number, calculated for all EU Member States, of breeding females of the same breed available for a pure-bred reproduction, included in a register recognised by the Member State (e.g. herd book or zoological book).

### **Countries**

EU is a party of the CBD and, in consequence, all EU countries are obliged to develop national biodiversity strategies and conservation of AnGR. In Situ conservation is regarded as the preferable approach, because it enables utilization and characterisation and also adaptation to changing environmental conditions. The Biodiversity action plan was adopted in 2001. The CAP instruments provide the framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into EU agricultural policy. Directly related to the implementation of the Action Plan is Council Regulation (EC) No. 870/2004. Under this regulation the current project could be implemented.

(EU) Countries must enable the establishment of herd books and breeders' organizations. EU legislation defines a pure-bred animal as an "animal the parents and grandparents of which are entered or registered in a herd-book of the same breed, and which is itself either entered or registered and eligible for entry in such a herd-book."



### **Epidemics: Facts and Background**

#### **History**

Epidemics

Since antiquity, animal epidemics are known. Already since 1514 the FMD is described in Italy. In the 16. and 17. century, animal health certificates were required.

Animal epidemics lead to the first education of veterinarians in France (Lyon, Vienna, Torino and Göttingen in the 18. century. 1711 (Preussen), 1713 (England), 1714 (France) legal norms were legislated, which include all measures taken also today like disclosure duty (= Anzeigepflicht), blocking of livestock groups (Sperrung von

Beständen), elimination of infected animals, disinfection and payments of compensation.

## **Legal Systems concerning contagious Animal Diseases**

### **Notifiable diseases**

A **notifiable disease** is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. This collation of information allows the authorities to monitor the disease, and provides early warning of possible outbreaks. Many governments have enacted regulations for reporting of both human and animal (generally livestock) diseases.

### **World Organisation for Animal Health, OIE**

1920: an outbreak of Cattle plague (Rinderpest) in Antwerpen by zebu cattle from Pakistan, which were only on journey through Belgium, led to the establishment of OIE (Office International des Epizooties; internationales Tierseuchenamt) in France 1924. The need to fight animal diseases at global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January 25th 1924. In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE.

The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and as of May 2007, had a total of 169 Member Countries and Territories. The OIE maintains permanent relations with 35 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional Offices on every continent.

*Animal identification* and *animal traceability (Rückverfolgbarkeit)* are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses), and food safety risks arising from animal feed (see Section 3.5. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*; Section 4.3. of CAC/RCP 54-2004).

### **Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)**

registration and documentation of certain important infectious animal diseases. It is mainly a management tool that ensures detailed information about outbreaks of these animal diseases in the countries that are connected to the application. This permits immediate access to information about contagious animal disease outbreaks and ensures that trade in live animals and products of animal origin is not affected unnecessarily. The operational objective of the system is to ensure rapid exchange of information between the competent national authorities responsible for animal health and the Commission on outbreaks of contagious animal diseases.

The system allows the co-ordination and monitoring of outbreaks of contagious animal diseases and enables Member States and Commission services to take immediate measures to prevent the spread of the diseases in question.

In case of an outbreak of an epidemic disease European sanitary regulations dictate often culling of animals – although rare breeds. Such eradication causes irreversible losses of species and genetic variations. Solutions should be found to protect rare breeds from gene preservation programmes from eradication.

Which exceptions from eradication are existing already today? How can these be applied to endangered breeds?

Which prerequisites are needed to be fulfilled in advance (e.g. registration of animals and farms, specific farm conditions)?

Farm conditions can be:

Sanitary requirements

Conditions for the preserving unit (AI Center etc.)

Who will be responsible to decide about necessary action

How to harmonize conditions and actions among the European countries

### **TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System)**

is a European Union database system established in 2004. TRACES records the whole animal transportation within the EU and also from outside into EU.

Basic is EU decision 2003/623/of the commission from 19. August 2003.  
Aim of the system is, to network the veterinarian offices, e.g. to find out the formites of an infectious disease in other livestock units in case of an epidemic outbreak. Also a list of services and frams, that are allowed to export animal products into EU.  
TRACES replaces the system ANIMO (ANIMAL MOVEMENT).



### ***Animal diseases (examples)***

EU has regulations, which aims to improve animal health within the Community. Also there are several regulations concerning health standards and obligations under international law.

Provisions of e.g. culling measures for the exemption of rare breeds are in some Council Directives included: Council directive 2003/85 (FMD):

### ***Measures to be applied in Special Cases***

#### Article 15

Measures to be applied in case of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the vicinity or within certain specific premises keeping on a temporary or regular basis animals of susceptible species

1. Where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease threatens to infect animals of susceptible species in a laboratory, zoo, wildlife park, and fenced area or in bodies, institutes or centres approved in accordance with Article 13(2) of Directive 92/65/EEC and where animals are kept for scientific purposes or purposes related to conservation of species or farm animal genetic resources, the Member State concerned shall ensure that all appropriate bio-security measures are taken to protect such animals from infection. Those measures may include restricting access to public institutions or making such access subject to special conditions.

2. Where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is confirmed in one of the premises referred to in paragraph 1, the Member State concerned may decide to derogate from Article 10(1)(a), provided that basic Community interests, and in particular the animal health status of other Member States, are not endangered and that all necessary measures are in place to prevent any risk of spreading foot-and-mouth disease virus.

3. The decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall immediately be notified to the Commission. In the case of farm animal genetic resources, this notification shall include a reference to the list of premises established in accordance with Article 77(2)(f), by which the competent authority has identified these premises in advance as breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of a breed.

A list of premises that are identified as a "breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of a breed" must be established in advance (Article 77). The Commission must be notified in the event of a Member State deciding to derogate slaughter measures, and it must be ensured that "the animal health status of other Member States, are not endangered and that all necessary measures are in place to prevent any risk of spreading footand-mouth disease virus