

Comments on Commission Communication “A new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013)”

**Animal Health Strategy of the EU
European Parliament
Brussels 17 October 2007**

**Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General**



Three components:

- ➡ why new strategies?

- ➡ which solutions?

- ➡ the EU response: OIE comments

**Why new appropriate animal health
strategies became crucial?**

Trends in Global Population

Global Population: 1950-2015

Total

Billions

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

0

1950

55

60

65

70

75

80

85

90

95

2000

05

10

15



Less developed countries



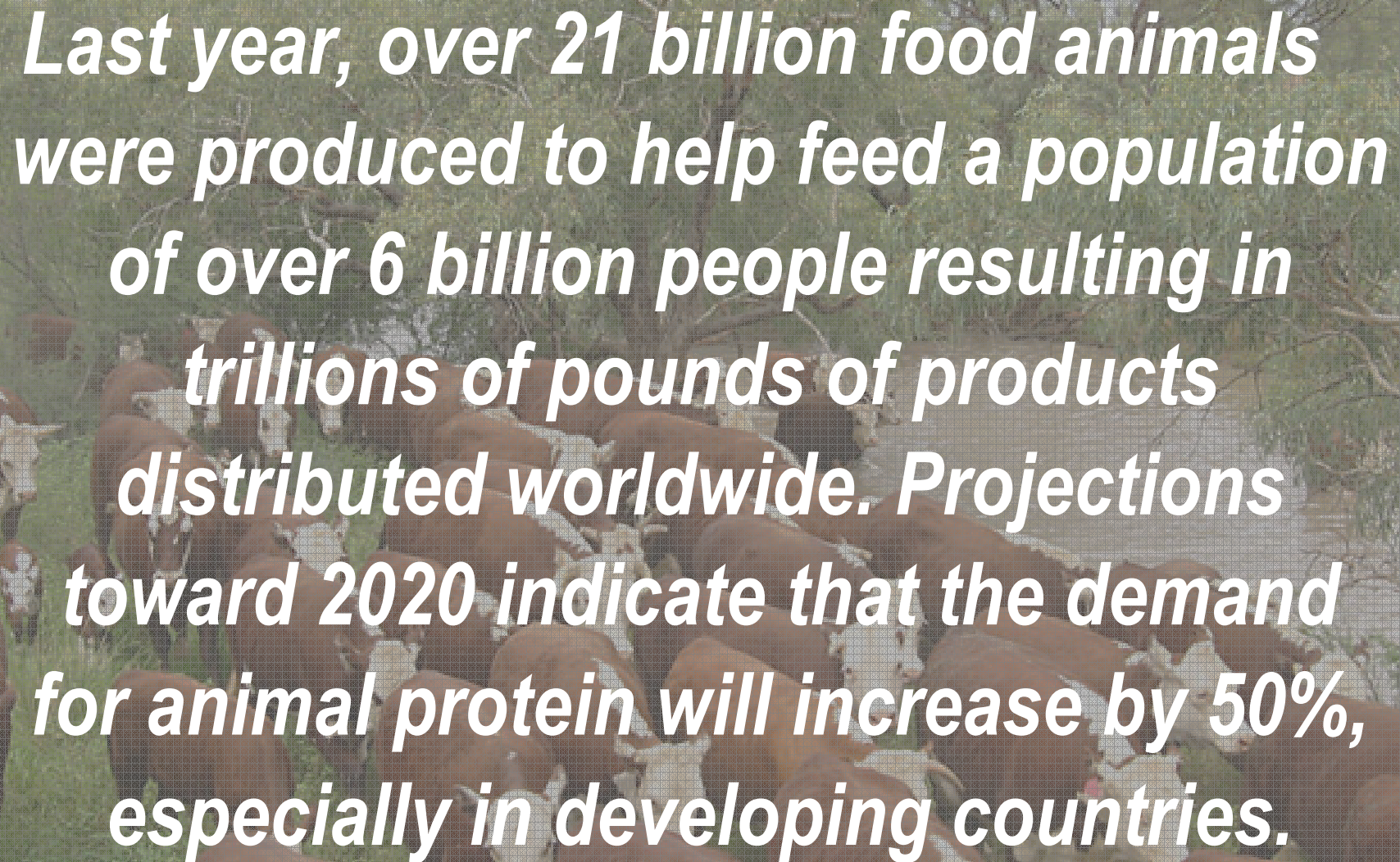
More developed countries

Source: US Bureau of the Census

Livestock 2020 – the Next Food Revolution

- ✓ Global increase and demand for protein and food of animal origin
- ✓ **Shift from poverty of 1-2 billion people to middle class**
- ✓ “Westernization” of Asia and Latin America
- ✓ **Concerns with sustainability**
- ✓ Increases in emerging zoonoses through the concentration of people and animals



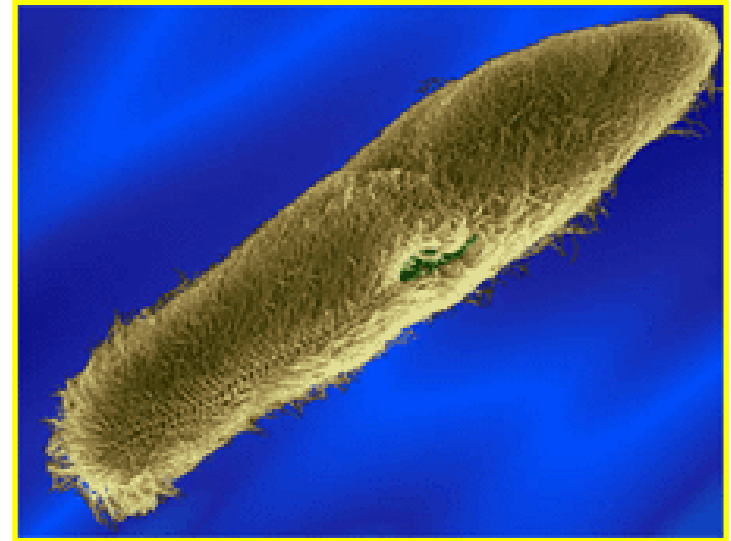
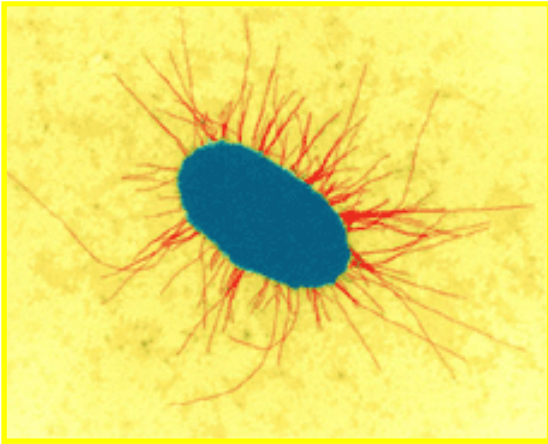
A large herd of brown and white cows is grazing in a lush green field. In the background, there are tall, leafy trees under a clear sky. The scene is bright and natural, representing a typical pastoral setting.

Last year, over 21 billion food animals were produced to help feed a population of over 6 billion people resulting in trillions of pounds of products distributed worldwide. Projections toward 2020 indicate that the demand for animal protein will increase by 50%, especially in developing countries.

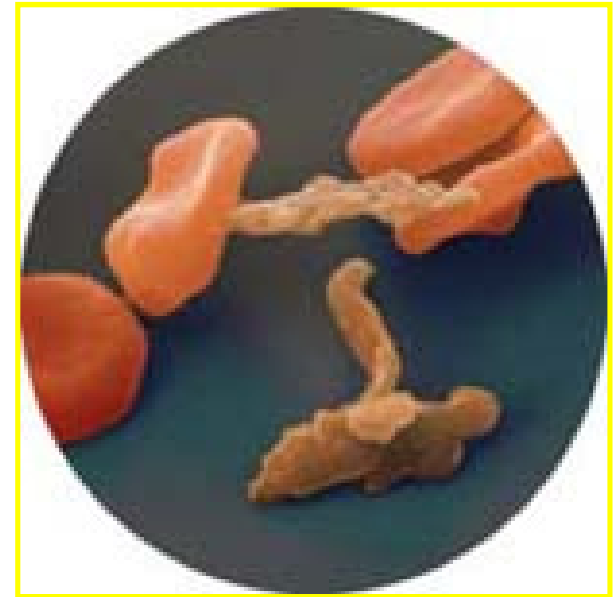
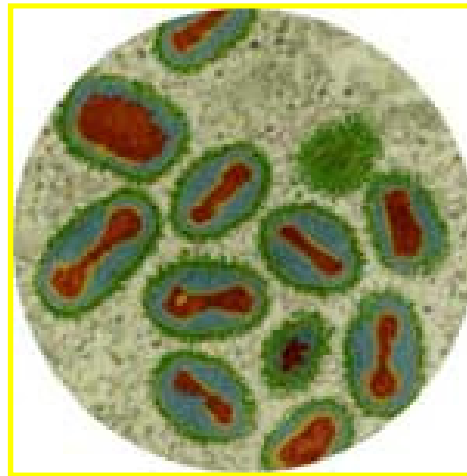
Safe Food begins with healthy animals



*Strong Link Between Health
and Welfare*



Our ENEMIES





***There is no where in the world
from which we are remote and
no one from whom we are
disconnected***



PNAS, 2004

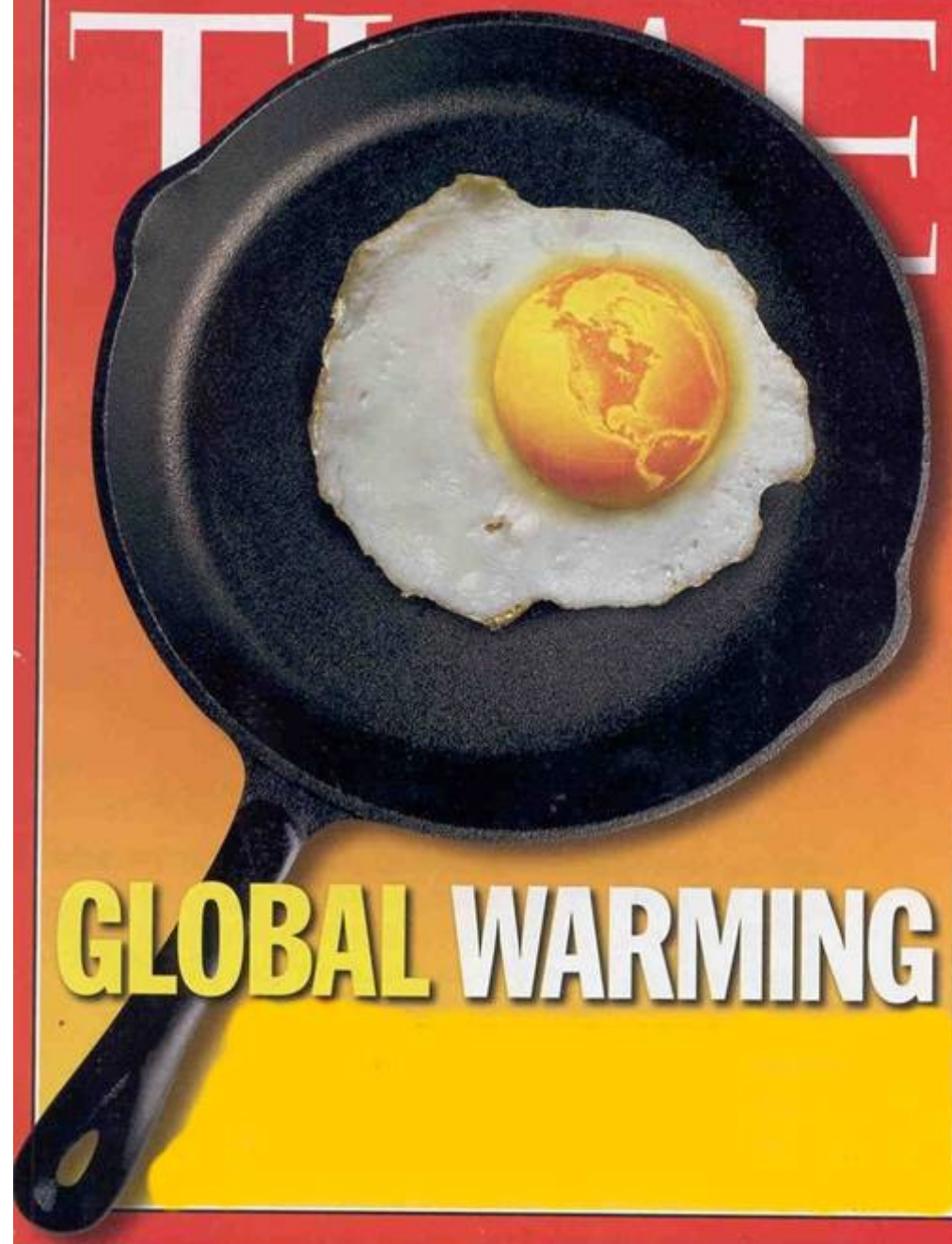
Annual Global Trade in Exotic Animals

- ✓ 4 million birds
- ✓ 640,000 reptiles
- ✓ 40,000 primates
- ✓ Illegal trade unknown – estimate \$4-6 billion



APRIL 9, 2001 \$3.50

www.time.com AOL Keyword: TIME



GLOBAL WARMING

Climate Change's Impact on Infectious Diseases

- ✓ **Vector-borne diseases**
- ✓ **Water-borne diseases**
- ✓ **Agriculture Production**
- ✓ **Migration of Animals**
- ✓ **Changing ecosystems for wildlife and animals**
- ✓ **Built environment**
- ✓ **Human-Animal Interface**
- ✓ **Ecologies and a new research portfolio**
- ✓ **Evidence-based public health impact**

Current and Projected Importance of Factors Influencing new diseases emergence

FACTOR	2007	2017	2027
Human demographics and behavior	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
Technology and industry	↑	↑	↑
Economic development and land use	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
International travel and commerce	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
Microbial adaptation and change	↑	↑	↑
Breakdown of public health measures	↑	↑	↑
Climate change and weather	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
Changing ecosystems	↑	↑	↑
Poverty and social inequality	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
War and famine	↑	↑	↑
Lack of political will	↑	↑	↑
Intent to harm	↑	↑	↑



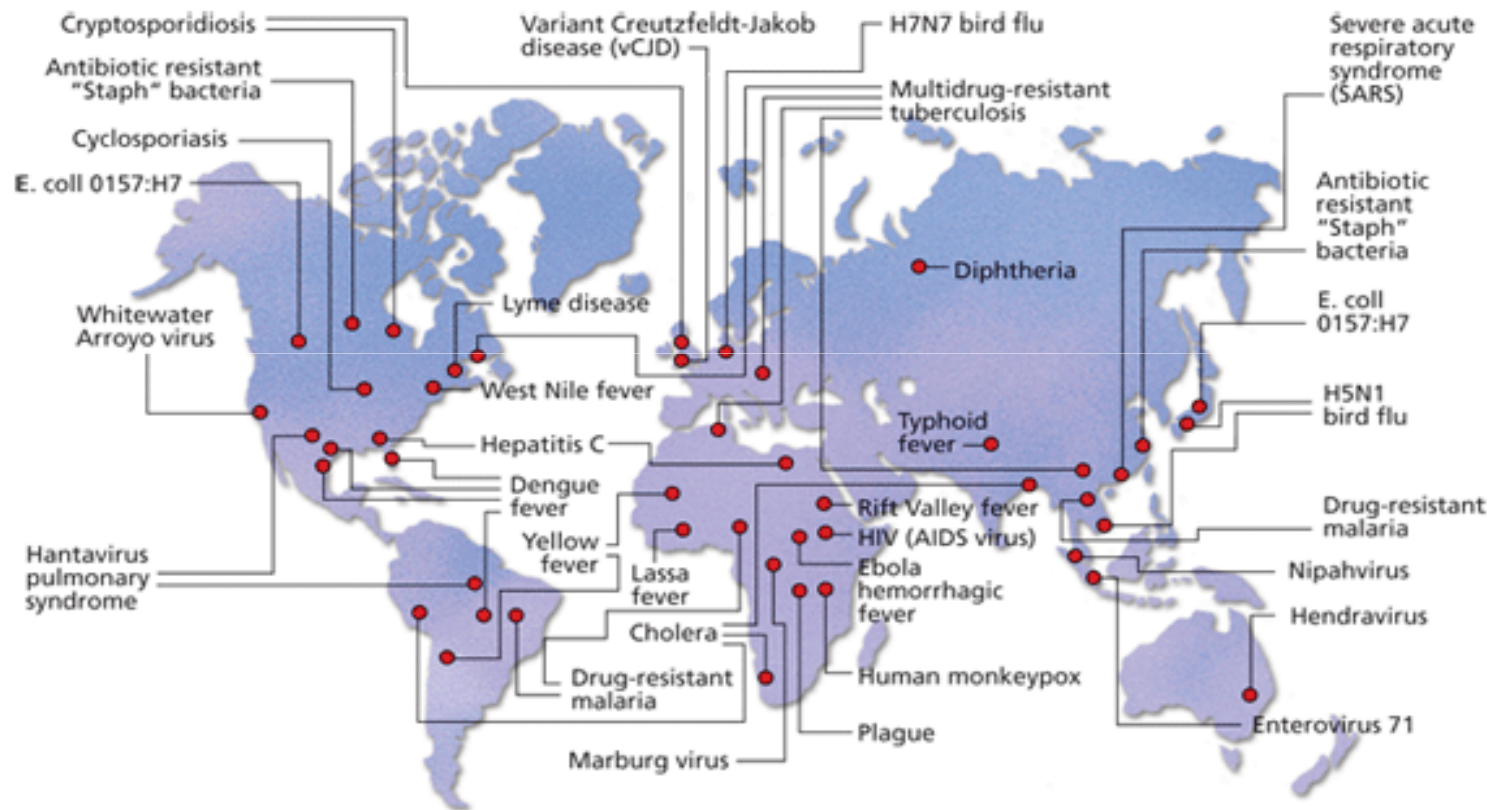
**“Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and caldron bubble.”**

William Shakespeare

World's Most Dangerous Animals



Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases



The Perfect Microbial Storm: Ravenna, Italy (2007)



- ✓ A Virus from Africa (an alphavirus – Chikungunya)
- ✓ A mosquito from Asia (Aedes albopictus: tiger mosquito)
- ✓ A tourist from India (1.25 million human cases in 2006)
- ✓ A report of 270 people infected with Chikungunya in Ravenna, Italy
- ✓ Globalization is key to the future of infectious diseases
- ✓ E.g. global tire trade; 2.1 billion airline passengers/yr; climate change; and, a shift of competent vectors worldwide

(Bloomberg Report 9/25/07)

Used Tires Stored at Other Locations



Multi-host nature of diseases

- 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic
- 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic
- 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens

Examples of Recent and Current Crisis

- BSE
- FMD in UK
- AVIAN INFLUENZA in Asia
- NIPAH VIRUS in Malaysia
- West Nile Virus in N. America

Which solutions?

Current International Sanitary Governance in the Field of Animal Origin Pathogens

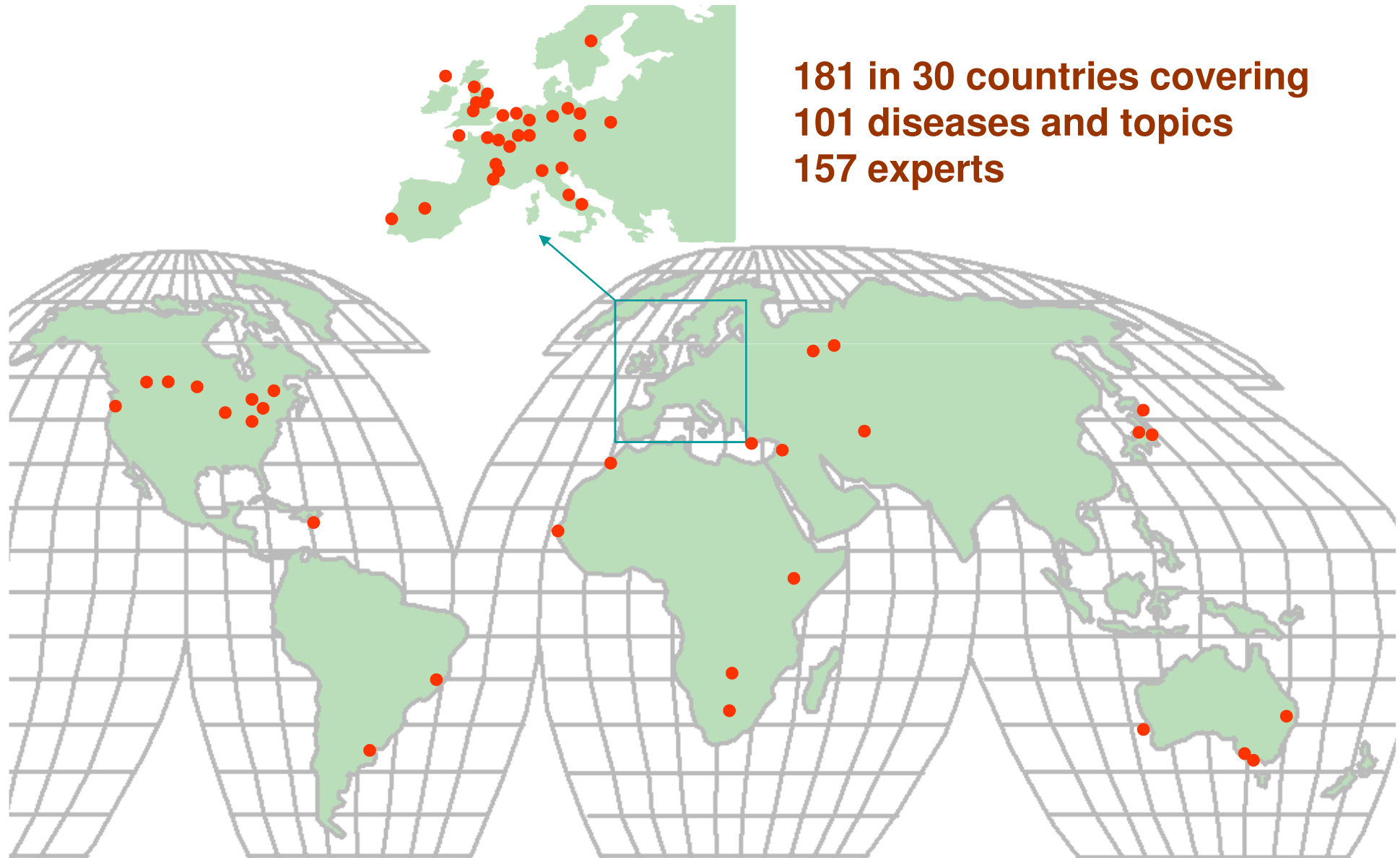
- World Animal Health Organization – OIE
- World Trade Organization – WTO
- United Nations:
 - FAO – WHO
 - Codex Alimentarius
 - Biological Weapon Convention
 - Others
- Regional Organizations

Objectives of the OIE

1. To ensure transparency in the global **animal disease and zoonosis situation**
2. To collect, analyse and disseminate **scientific veterinary information**
3. To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity **in the control of animal diseases**
4. Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing **health standards** for international trade in animals and animal products
5. To improve the legal framework and resources of **national Veterinary Services**
6. To provide a better guarantee of the **safety of food of animal origin** and to promote **animal welfare** through a science-based approach



Scientific basis: OIE Reference Laboratories network



Minimize Threat of Emerging Animal Diseases

Surveillance

Early detection

- Awareness
- High quality Veterinary Services

Rapid and transparent notification

- Appropriate national chain of command

Minimize Threat of Emerging Animal Diseases (cont)

Rapid response

- rapid confirmation of suspects
- confinement and humane stamping out
- use of vaccination when available and if appropriate

Governance, legislation, policies and resources,
in compliance with OIE international standards

Good Governance of Veterinary Services

Basic requirements for all countries

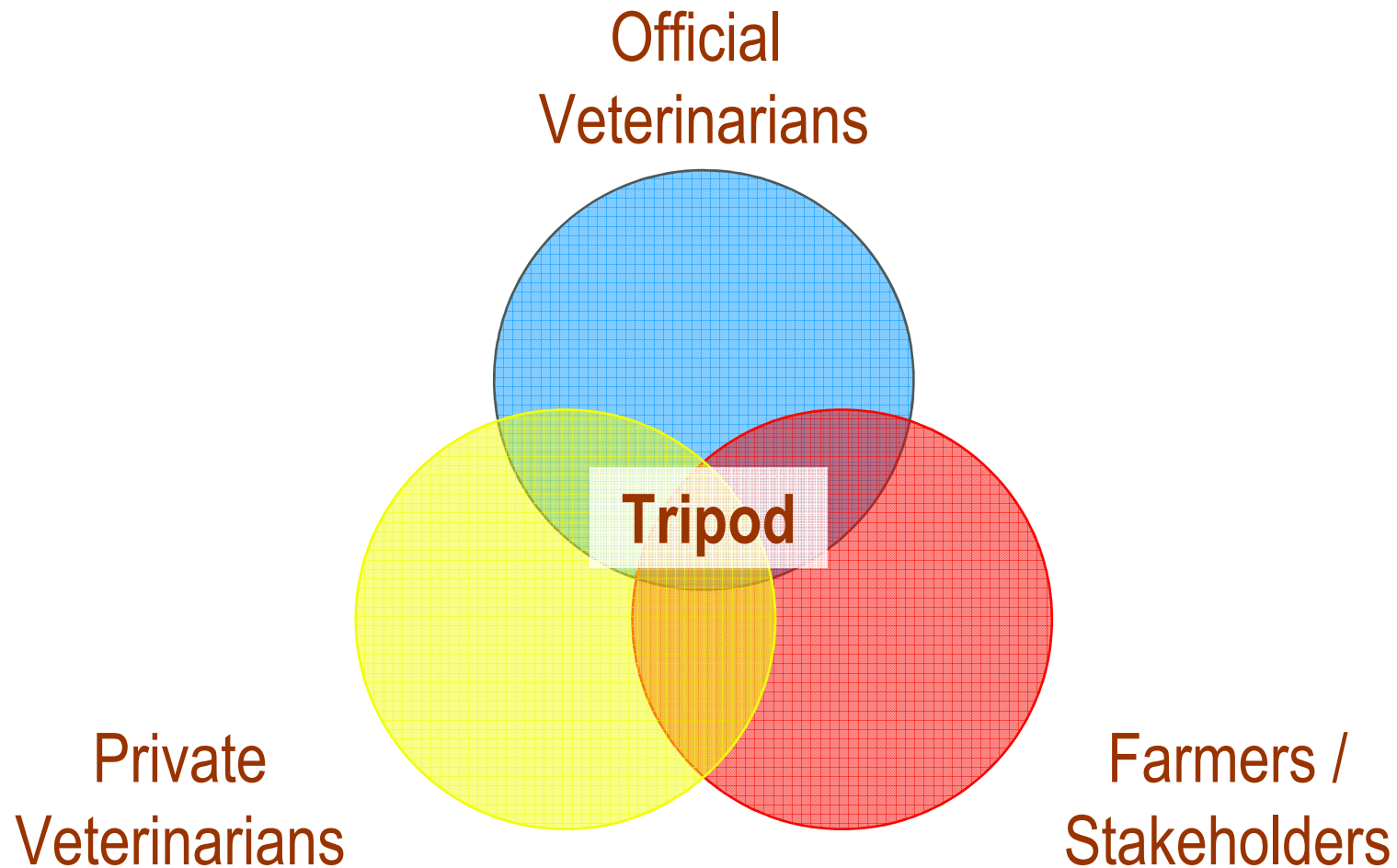
Crucial need for appropriate legislation and strict implementation through appropriate national animal health systems allowing:

- **Early detection, Transparency, Notification**
- **Rapid response** to animal disease outbreaks
- Biosecurity
- Compensation
- Vaccination when necessary

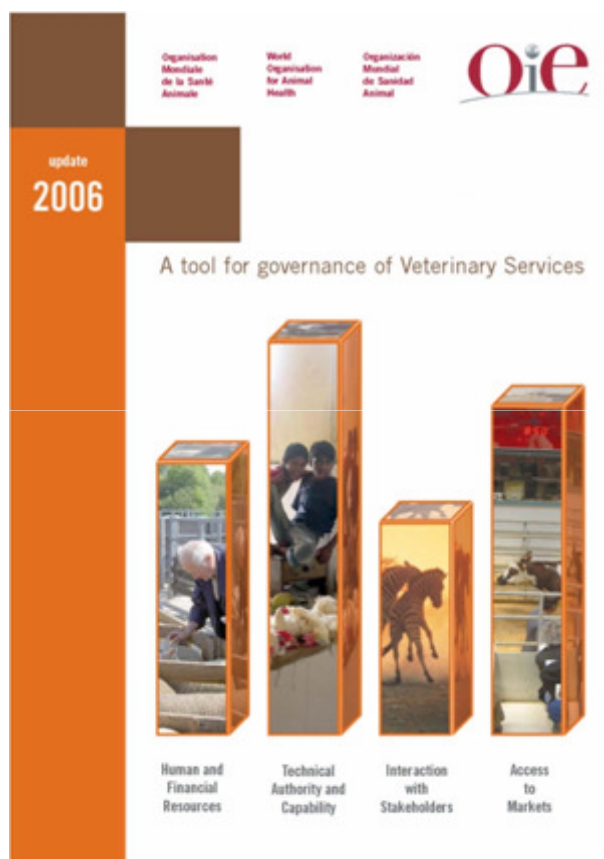
Good Governance of Veterinary Services (cont)

- Building and maintaining efficient (epidemiological) surveillance networks and territorial meshing covering the entire national territory, potentially for all animal diseases, including zoonoses and emerging diseases, is a **responsibility of all Governments** including developed countries,
- Concept of quality of Services adopted by all OIE Member Countries,
- Parallel with WHO/IHR

Key tripod for surveillance



The OIE-PVS Tool



Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services

a tool for Good Governance of Veterinary Services

(last updated in July 2007)

The PVS background

OIE international standards:

- **Chapter 1.3.3:** Evaluation of Veterinary Services (which include public and private components)
- **Chapter 1.3.4:** Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Development of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (to implement PVS and regional capacity building programs)

PVS Procedure

- Training and certification of OIE experts
- Draft PVS Country Report
- OIE Peer Review
- Final PVS Country Report
- Acceptance by the Country
- Gap analysis
- Investment preparation (national and international channels)

Global Public Good

Global public goods are goods whose benefits extend to all countries, people, and generations.

Global Public Good (cont)

- In the case of eradication of infectious diseases, the benefits have international and inter-generational spillovers.
- Countries are depending from one another and an inadequate action by one nation can jeopardize all the others.
- If one country fails, it may endanger the entire planet.

Activities of Veterinary Services (public and private components)

It is an **Global Public Good** with beneficial effects on:

- Poverty Alleviation
 - Securing assets (Capital-Animal)
 - Increasing productivity
- Market Access (local, regional and internat.)
- Public Health, including Food Safety and Food Security

The EU Response: OIE comments

Pillar 1: Choosing priorities for EU Action

- Risk assessment
 - ☞ lessons from the past
- Risk components
 - ☞ agriculture production
 - ☞ market access
 - ☞ public health and food safety
- Involvement of the Technology Platform on Animal Health.
Why not global platform?

Pillar 2: Creating a modern legislation framework

- Current community legislation is a model in the world
- Efficacy of the current comitology
- Collaboration with international standard setting bodies will increase
- Current mechanism with OIE

Pillar 2: Creating a modern legislation framework (cont)

- Good Governance – OIE PVS tool
- Global Public Good
- Penalties
- Involvement of insurances companies?

Pillar 3: Preventing animal diseases

- International negotiations
- Border controls
- Surveillance; early detection of natural and intentional events
 - ✎ no obligations for Member Countries excepting emergency preparedness plan
- Support to poor third country
- Coordination of external animal health policies and relevant threats
- EU animal health specialists network
- Identification, traceability and labeling: link with **WAHIS-WAHID**

Pilar 4: Promoting research and innovation

- Technology Platform on Animal Health
- Research on vaccines is crucial
 - ☞ example of classical and African swine fever
- External laboratory network
- Link between animal health and animal welfare

Thank you for your attention

Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

