

Georgia hosted the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

On 17-21 September, 2018, the National Food Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the state veterinary service, hosted the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.



More than 130 participants from World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) member countries from Europe, International organisations and local stakeholders attended the conference. The conference was opened by Mr Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, who highlighted:

‘Our collaboration with OIE through our delegate has already yielded many fruitful results. In line with the OIE initiatives, we managed to decrease anthrax and rabies cases in animals and humans and stop PPR outbreak in an incredibly short amount of time. Our livestock industry is developing rapidly and the export of live animals, meat and meat products are on steady rise, but progress brings not only new opportunities, but also new risks and threats, especially when it comes to animal and human health and their livelihoods. This is why animal health and welfare is crucial for ensuring economic and agricultural growth of our country.’

Presentations and discussions at the 28th Conference included the following topics: planning of the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan; future regional priorities and important items for Europe; veterinary matters in Georgia; analysis of the animal health situation in member countries in the region during 2017 and 2018; recent PPR cases in Bulgaria: situation and emergency management; outcomes of the FAO-OIE Global Conference on partnering and investing for a PPR free world; recent developments in OIE reference laboratories and Collaborating Centres; and evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway: perspectives for Europe.



Follow-ups to the two recommendations (on Rabies and Lumpy Skin Disease) adopted during the 27th Conference were presented, as well as Technical Item I: application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels, and Technical Item II: importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution by the Veterinary Services for a

proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy. The Technical Items stimulated good discussion.

During the event, a record number of participants attended and the number of posters presented was unprecedented, once more underlining the importance of and high interest towards the regional conference.

Participants noted that organisational matters were handled professionally and with commitment and recognised the diligence and dedication of the OIE staff and representatives of the host country. Participants also appreciated the cultural visit and hospitality offered by Georgia.



The conference was hosted with the support of FAO Project “Establishment of a National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS)” in Georgia and EU-funded Comprehensive Institution Building (CIB) program.

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