



مِنظَرَةُ الصَّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ

قَرَار

RESOLUTION

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC50/R.11  
October 2003

Fiftieth Session

Agenda item 8 (c)

**MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE CONTROL OF ZONOTIC DISEASES IN THE EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report on the main challenges in the control of zoonotic diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region<sup>1</sup>;

Recalling resolution EM/RC39/R.5 on zoonotic diseases;

Recognizing that a number of endemic and epidemic zoonotic diseases, particularly rabies, brucellosis, cystic hydatidosis, Rift Valley fever and leishmaniasis, and foodborne zoonotic infections occur in the Region, and that new and emerging zoonoses and related foodborne diseases represent a threat to human and animal populations of the Region and lead to significant economic loss;

Recognizing also that efficient surveillance and control of zoonoses are the responsibility of both the public health and veterinary sectors and that intersectoral collaboration is essential.

Acknowledging the significant contribution of the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme to the control of zoonoses in the Region;

1. **REQUESTS** Member States to:

- 1.1 Ensure the establishment of an empowered national intersectoral committee charged with responsibility for coordinating and advising on surveillance and control of zoonoses;
- 1.2 Assess the national burden of zoonotic and related diseases, especially foodborne diseases, and prioritize the diseases according to their impact on morbidity and the national economy;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EM/RC50/7

- 1.3 Promote active community involvement in the implementation of zoonosis prevention and control activities through targeted public information materials, health education and community partnerships;
  - 1.4 Update veterinary public health and health professions educational curricula according to current knowledge and practical needs for control of zoonotic diseases, with emphasis on multisectoral approaches;
  - 1.5 Promote and support multidisciplinary research on new approaches to control zoonotic diseases, especially foodborne diseases, and health system research to strengthen intersectoral collaboration and coordination;
  - 1.6 Cooperate in the prevention of zoonotic diseases, especially foodborne diseases, and the exchange of information regarding any rejection by a State of a food shipment of confirmed infectiveness.
2. **CALLS** upon Member States to participate in the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme;
  3. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
    - 3.1 Strengthen WHO's partnership with regional and international organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in order to enhance control activities;
    - 3.2 Build an evidence base on the economic burden of zoonoses, including cost–benefit and cost–effectiveness analyses of zoonosis control interventions;
    - 3.3 Promote the development of regional self-sufficiency in vaccines for zoonotic diseases.