

# **Animal Welfare: the role of the OIE**

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**Animal Welfare in Europe:  
Achievements and Future Prospects  
Strasbourg, 23-24 November 2006**

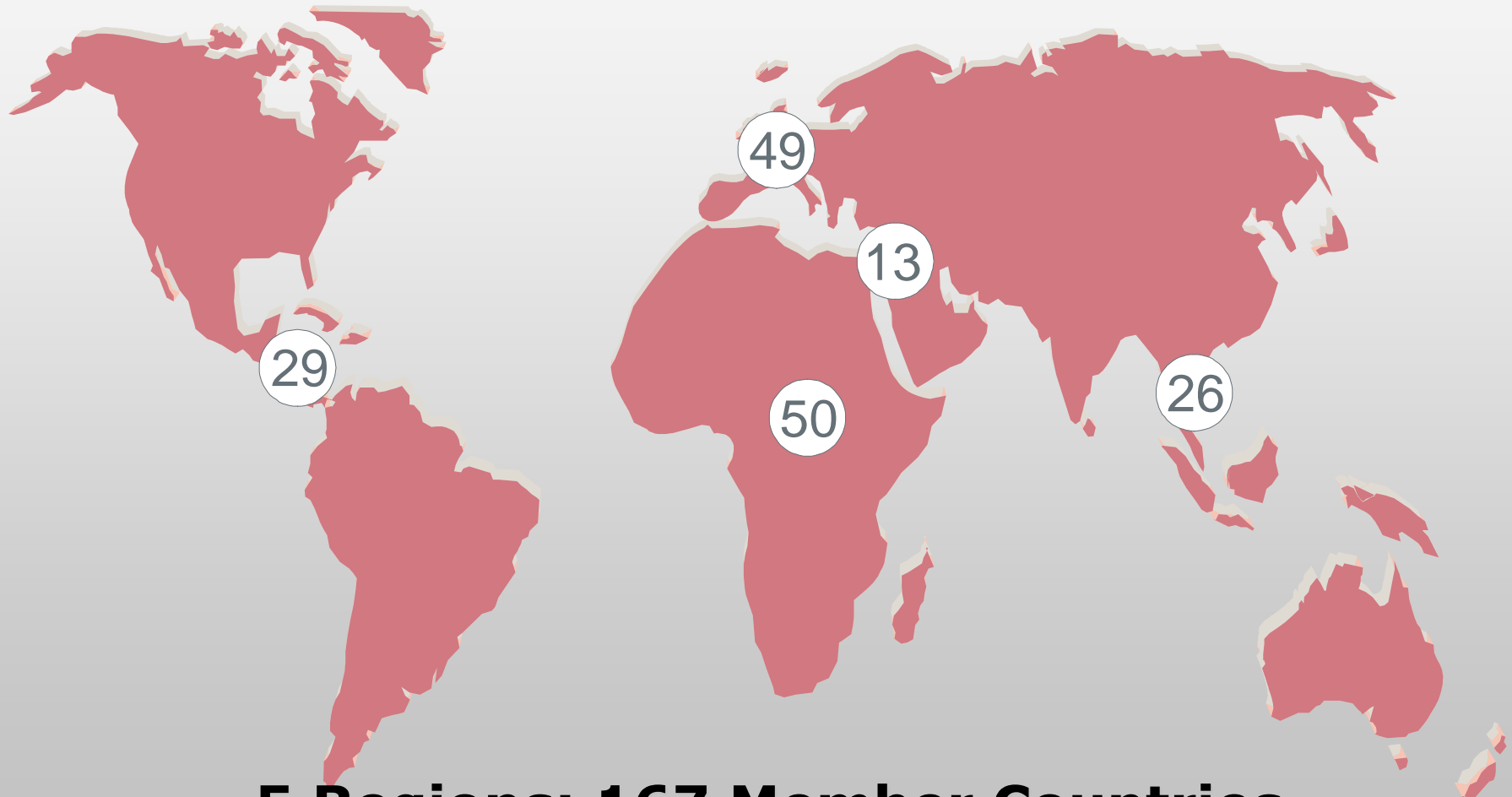
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- **Introduction to the OIE**
- **OIE role in Animal Welfare**
- **OIE Animal welfare Guidelines**
- **Future Steps**



# OIE: an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1924



**5 Regions; 167 Member Countries**  
**29 Americas; 50 Africa; 49 Europe; 13 Middle East; 26 Asia.**

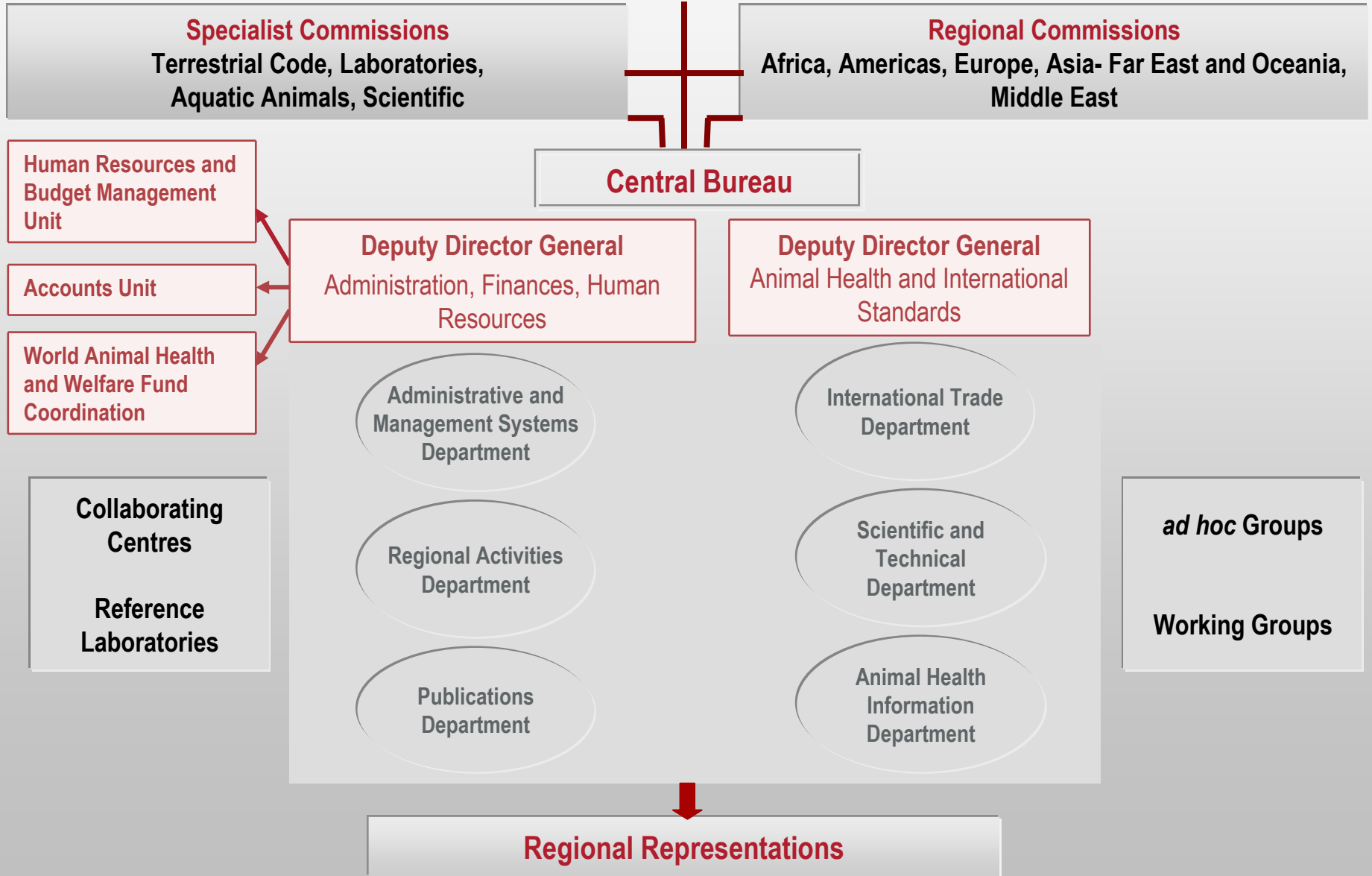
“The hand of God struck the Netherlands, afflicting its cattle with Rinderpest”



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## Administrative Commission

Director General





COMMITTEE,  
COMMISSIONS,  
DELEGATES

PROBLEM

Specialist  
Commissions

Review

Advice of experts or other  
Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1  
DELEGATES

2  
COMMITTEE

OIE INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

Adoption

# Updating International Standards



# TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL CODE



To facilitate trade in  
Animals & products while  
avoiding unjustified  
trade barriers;  
To support countries in the  
control of animal diseases  
and prevention of zoonoses.



- **WTO obligations**
- **Risk Assessment**
- **Measures based on science**
- **Strengthening Veterinary Services**





# OIE OBJECTIVES

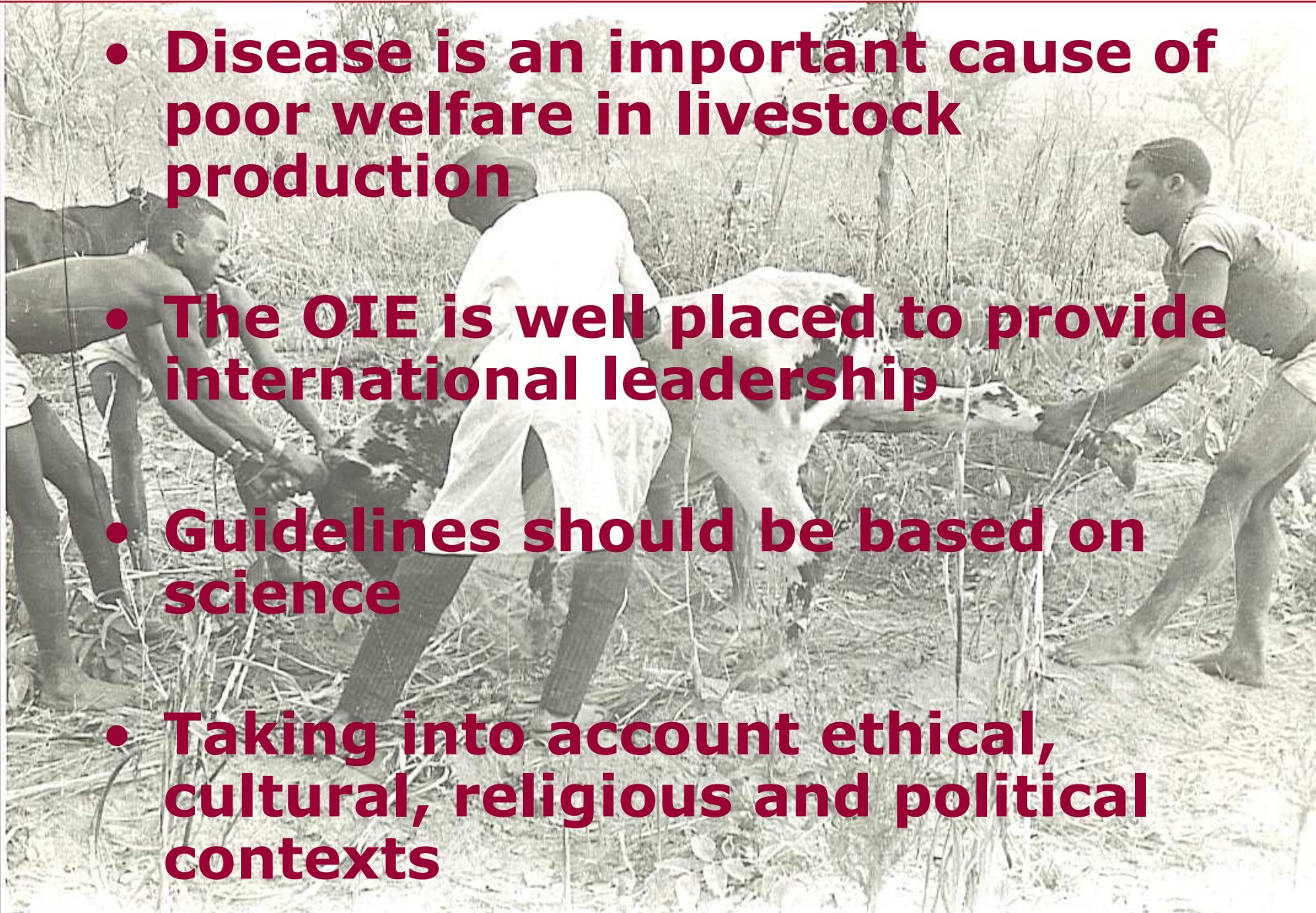


- 1. Transparency**
- 2. Scientific information**
- 3. International Solidarity**
- 4. Global trade standards**
- 5. Veterinary Services**
- 6. Food safety & Animal welfare**

# WHY ANIMAL WELFARE?



- **Disease is an important cause of poor welfare in livestock production**
- **The OIE is well placed to provide international leadership**
- **Guidelines should be based on science**
- **Taking into account ethical, cultural, religious and political contexts**



# Animal Welfare WG



- **Manages the work program set by the International Committee**
- **Develops priorities and strategies**
- **Views of academia, governments, private sector in all regions**
- **Reports to the Code Commission**



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



- **'Five freedoms'**
- **'Three Rs'**
- **Science-based recommendations**
- **There is a clear link between animal health and animal welfare**  
**Better animal welfare helps improve productivity and can give other benefits**



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



- **Relevance for 167 Member Countries**
- **Initial priority of animals in agriculture and aquaculture**
- **Involvement of stakeholders**
- **Collaboration (incl. with other international organisations)**



## ***OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

Guidelines adopted in 2005 on:

1. Slaughter of animals for human consumption
2. Killing of animals for disease control
3. Transport by land
4. Transport by sea

# USING THE GUIDELINES



- **By veterinary services**
  - in bilateral discussions between trading partners
  - as part of the domestic or international policy framework
- **By the private sector**
  - Company veterinarians, Livestock producer organisations, Retailers of animal products etc

# OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS



- Rev. Sci. Tech. 2005: Animal Welfare: global issues, trends and challenges
- Global Animal Welfare Conference 2004  
*Proceedings* available
- Expansion of animal welfare content of OIE website and publications.
- Inclusion of Animal Welfare in OIE 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan.





# FUTURE WORK



- New Guidelines being developed on:
  - stray dog control
  - laboratory animal welfare
  - aquatic animal welfare
  - housing of production animals
  - zoo / exotic animal welfare
- International Declaration
- Animal welfare in the teaching curriculum and as a scientific research priority

# FUTURE WORK



**Global Animal Welfare  
Conference 2008  
“Towards the  
Implementation of  
International  
Guidelines”**





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