Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale
World Organisation for Animal Health
Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

The Director General

Our Ref.: MKP/SB 30.053

Paris, 14 February 2014

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Dear Delegate

I kindly refer to your letter of 31 January 2014 in which you requested the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) to consider the recovery of the FMD free status where vaccination is not practiced of the zone previously recognised in May 2005, following the suspension of its free status on 25 February 2011.

At its meeting held from 10 to 14 February 2014, the Scientific Commission considered the South African dossier sent in September 2013, as well as the supplementary information provided in an addendum to the original application received on 31 January 2014.

I am pleased to inform you that the Scientific Commission concluded that following the additional information you provided, South Africa complies with the provisions of Article 8.6.9. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*) and that the zone recognised by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in terms of Resolution XX of May 2005, and described in the addendum qualifies for the recovery for an FMD free status where vaccination is not practiced.

I am pleased to inform you that the status of its "FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised" is thus re-instated as of 14 February 2014 for the zone of South Africa described above.

The OIE will publish a statement on the OIE web site on the re-instatement of the FMD free status of the zone of South Africa.

However, the Scientific Commission in accordance with my letter (our reference: LWV/SB 30.298 of 29 November 2013) agreed that an expert mission will be conducted by the end of 2014 to verify that the measures described in the addendum have indeed been fully implemented in the entire FMD control areas of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal Provinces. The Scientific Commission considered that such a mission could be scheduled in December 2014. I will provide you a proposal with the exact date as soon as possible for your consideration.

This decision is in support of Resolution No. 30 adopted at the 81st General Session on procedures for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases, which states that the Scientific Commission can, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, request a mission of experts to the applicant Member Country to verify compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.

I look forward to receiving your acceptance in principle to host this mission, in accordance with the provisions of Resolutions No. 26 and 30 adopted respectively during the 80th and 81st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

Thank you very much in advance for your consideration on this matter, and for all your efforts and support of the activities of the OIE. I congratulate you for the very positive achievement on the FMD situation in your country.

With kind regards

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