

## **ANNEX 3**

### **EU POSITION**

#### **ON THE DRAFT OIE TERRESTRIAL MANUAL CHAPTERS**

#### **PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION IN MAY 2022**

The EU thanks the OIE for having taken into account most of its comments submitted previously and in general supports the adoption of the 19 draft chapters and the glossary of terms for the OIE Terrestrial Manual circulated to member countries in March 2022 to be proposed for adoption at the 89<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session in May 2022, with two exceptions.

As regards Chapter 3.1.X. on mammalian tuberculosis, the EU does not support the addition of the words “*and is a barrier to trade*” in the first paragraph of the summary (line 9). Even if that statement may be true for most of the OIE listed diseases, it is out of the scope of the Terrestrial Manual, and is certainly out of place in the summary of this chapter. Indeed, there are no further references to this in the introduction section or elsewhere in the chapter that would give some context to this statement. The EU therefore requests that it be deleted from the text before the chapter is presented for adoption.

In relation to Chapter 3.6.2. on contagious equine metritis, the EU does not support the addition of the sentence “*A minimum of five suspect colonies should be taken for confirmation by PCR*” in Section B point 1.5. “Molecular methods” (line 180). Indeed, it is not clear why and on what basis this addition is proposed. Neither a scientific reference, nor an adequate rationale is provided in the BSC report to substantiate this proposal, or the number of colonies to be taken. Experience has shown that a minimum of five suspect colonies is not always obtained, while this does not hamper confirmation by PCR. It is also not clear why this point is made in that part of the text, and not in Section 1.1 “Culture techniques” - if at least five suspect colonies need to be grown for subsequent confirmation by PCR, this should be indicated from the start. Furthermore, it is also not clear why this point would only be applicable for confirmation by PCR, and not for the other techniques. Carrying out biochemical and growth tests as a screening on suspicious colonies is economical and reliable prior to identification by PCR. When a colony is suspected of being of the *Taylorella* genus, then it is appropriate to carry out a PCR for its confirmation and species identification. This is the procedure that is performed in the EURL for equine diseases. The EU therefore requests that this sentence be deleted from the text before the chapter is presented for adoption.