

TECHNICAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MONTENEGRO ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND FOOD SAFETY

The Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro, hereinafter referred to as 'Parties',

WISHING to further strengthen their cooperation in the field of veterinary medicine and food safety,

WITH THE PURPOSE OF monitoring infectious diseases and zoonoses in their respective countries and guaranteeing food safety,

CONSIDERING their mutual interest to expand trade in live animals and foods,

have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1. With the purpose of strengthening and improving bilateral cooperation in the field of veterinary medicine and food safety, through the Directorate General for animal health and veterinary medicines and the Directorate General for food hygiene and safety and for nutrition of the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro, the Parties shall facilitate:
 - a) the cooperation between the veterinary and food safety services and other relevant institutions in both countries;
 - b) the exchange of technical staff and experts, in order to share knowledge of scientific and technical achievements in the field of veterinary medicine;
 - c) the exchange of information on health aspects related to aquatic and terrestrial animals, as well as hygiene aspects related to food production and processing;
 - d) the exchange of information on methods used for containing animal diseases and on issues regarding the veterinary public health situation;
 - e) the cooperation of scientific institutions on performing surveys and research on animal diseases, strengthening control systems on food and fostering the cooperation between diagnostic and testing laboratories;
 - f) the organisation of training courses, including the use of ICT and the reciprocal participation of specialists in symposia and workshops organised by the Parties;
 - g) the implementation of research projects of mutual interest with regard to animal diseases control and food safety;
 - h) the development of cooperation projects and initiatives, with the involvement of the private sector.
2. The implementing arrangements for the commitments set out in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be laid down by means of the exchange of letters of intent between the relevant Authorities of the Parties.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties shall mutually exchange information on outbreaks of aquatic animal diseases, and on the occurrence of diseases previously specified in the List A of the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as OIE) and of any other disease of terrestrial or aquatic animals that may represent a risk to public health, as well as on the related measures taken to eradicate and monitor such diseases, according to EU regulations and OIE requirements.

ARTICLE 3

In order to safeguarding human and animal health, the Parties shall implement appropriate provisions governing the trade in live animals and food, also in accordance with the commitments deriving from their membership of international organisations and institutions.

ARTICLE 4

For the purpose of implementing this Technical Agreement, the Parties shall inform each other by means of official correspondence.

ARTICLE 5

The activities provided under this Agreement shall be carried out on the basis of the funds available in the budgets of both signatory Parties, without any extra charges for the State budget. Travel and accomodation expenses shall be covered by the Parties within their respective obligations.

ARTICLE 6

This Agreement shall apply in accordance with national regulations and laws in force in each country, as well as with mutually assumed international obligations and those related to the Italian membership of European Union.

All information provided by the Parties under this Agreement shall be treated as strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to any third parties, without prior written consent of the Party from which it originated.

ARTICLE 7

1. This Agreement will come into force on signature by both Parties.
2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years. It shall be automatically renewed for additional periods of five years, unless notice of termination is given by either of the Parties. Such notice shall be notified to the competent Authority of the other Party no later than six (6) months before the expiry date.
3. The Parties mutually agree to amend this Agreement, if needed. Any mutually agreed modifications shall become effective by means of an exchange of letters.

Done at _____ on _____ in two originals, each in English, Italian and Montenegrin languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE
ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

*Silvio Borrello
Giuseppe Ruocco*

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF
MONTENEGRO**

Vesna Dakovic
