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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	28 August 2025
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	COM(2025) 460 annex
Subject:	ANNEX to the Recommendation for a COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations, in the interest of the European Union, on a revision of the International Agreement and Organic Statutes, the Organic Rules, the Financial Rules and the General Rules and other texts of the World Organisation for Animal Health

Delegations will find attached document COM(2025) 460 annex.

Encl.: COM(2025) 460 annex



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ANNEX

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authorising the opening of negotiations, in the interest of the European Union, on a revision of the International Agreement and Organic Statutes, the Organic Rules, the Financial Rules and the General Rules and other texts of the World Organisation for Animal Health

ANNEX

DIRECTIVES FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A REVISION OF THE BASIC TEXTS OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (WOAH)

1. Within the framework of the Governance Review Committee (GRC) established further to Resolution No. 12 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 30 May 2024, which provides a negotiation forum inclusive of WOAH Membership with representatives from each region, the representatives of Member States that are Members of the GRC representing the WOAH Region of Europe will represent the Union as its negotiator and aim at amendments to the WOAH Basic Texts that ensure flexibility and adaptability of governance arrangements required to effectively navigate evolving situations.
2. The negotiator shall endeavour to achieve a comprehensive negotiated outcome, which encompasses the objectives and principles outlined below, in view of revised WOAH Basic Texts that are fit-for-purpose and capable of supporting an efficient, effective, and sustainable Organisation into the future. Throughout this process, the representatives of those Member States that are Members of the GRC authorised to negotiate on behalf of the Union shall coordinate, in close consultation with the Commission, with the relevant Working Party of the Council.
3. With regard to the desired outcome of the negotiations, the revised WOAH Basic Texts should seek to:
 - a. consolidate the mandate of WOAH and strengthen its role in matters falling within its mandate at global and regional level, while setting out specific arrangements for cooperation with relevant international organisations and non-governmental stakeholders including by taking into account the Union's One Health approach;
 - b. clarify the roles and responsibilities of the WOAH Secretariat including its Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives and that of its Members' Delegates, as well as WOAH governance bodies such as the World Assembly of Delegates, Council and Regional Commissions;
 - c. allow regional economic integration organisations to which its Member States have transferred competences over matters related to the mandate of the WOAH to become parties of the WOAH, and fully participate in the work of the organisation;
 - d. strengthen the science system of WOAH by reforming existing expert bodies, ensuring increased transparency and effectiveness in decision-making including in relation to international standard setting;
 - e. achieve active participation of Members in the work of the WOAH and increase the effective implementation of WOAH international standards by Members;
 - f. establish sound financial mechanisms that are based on transparency, fairness and solidarity, aiming at efficient use of available resources;
 - g. facilitate the process of further amending the WOAH Basic Texts to address changing needs.

4. The representatives should endeavour to ensure that the WOH Basic Texts are consistent with relevant Union law and policies, as well as the Union's commitments under other relevant multilateral agreements.