

(Translation)

DECISION NO. 19/1/65/2005 ISSUED ON 16/2/2005

Public Health and Environmental Affairs:

The Board of Directors Council of the General Secretariat of Municipalities (GSM) reviewed the memorandum submitted by the Secretary General regarding the recommendations of the Scientific Committee on BSE, which was formed by high officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, Municipalities and the GSM during their meeting on October 19, 2004. The Council approved the following:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR DEALING WITH BSE:

- 1) The local regulations on BSE should be based on OIE recommendations;
- 2) The regulations at this stage should be limited to beef only;
- 3) Countries will be dealt with according to the level of BSE incidents, (i.e. Countries will be categorized as "low BSE cases", "medium", etc.), as per the OIE recommendations. Countries classified as "Low Risk" will be dealt with first, followed by those classified as "Medium Risk" and so forth, keeping in consideration the geographical location for every country and its communication and logistical linkages with its neighboring countries and the measures in place to control and eradicate the disease.
- 4) To contact the countries that have requested to have the ban on its beef exports lifted such as (USA, Canada, Austria, Denmark, Ireland, France, and the Netherlands which applied on behalf of itself and other EU countries) requesting them to provide information regarding their total number of cows, number of BSE cases, incidence rate, number of cows that have been examined, results of examination (+ / -), and the measures have been taken to control and eradicate the disease.
- 5) Establish a fully equipped laboratory in the UAE for BSE diagnosing and testing.

II. THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS SHOULD BE MET BEFORE LIFTING THE BAN ON CONCERNED COUNTRIES:

A. Conditions related to the control and eradication of BSE:

- 1) The country of origin should have regulations in place that prohibit the use of feed of animal origin, i.e., feed containing meat and bone meal (MBM), in feeding ruminants, for not less than five years.
- 2) The exporting country must also have laws and regulations that prohibit the importation of feed of animal origin.
- 3) The production lines of feed for cows, mutton and lambs in the exporting country must be separated from the production lines of feed for pork and poultry to prevent possible contamination.
- 4) Reporting to the concerned authorities of any cases of the disease is mandatory (Notifiable Disease)

- 5) The exporting country should have effective surveillance programs in all locations (i.e. farms, quarantines, slaughterhouses, etc.) covering all slaughtered and live cows that exhibit neurological impairment or show an impaired movement, etc., as stated in Appendix 3.8.4 of the OIE code.
- 6) The exporting country should have regulations for removing Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) from the carcasses to prevent chances of infection and spread of the disease.
- 7) The exporting country should have in place a system for tracing back animals and their products.
- 8) The exporting country should have systems to implement Risk Assessments.
- 9) The exporting country should be transparent in its regulations and report all information concerning animal diseases at both national and international levels.
- 10) If required, the countries that fulfill the conditions should be visited by teams of specialists from the UAE to insure their compliance with the above mentioned conditions.

B. Conditions for Importing Beef:

Every shipment of imported beef must be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate that complies with the regulations of the UAE. It also must be certified by the official authorities of the exporting country and authenticated by the UAE embassy or the embassy of any Arab country, if UAE Embassy is not available, and should meet the following conditions:

- 1) The beef should be sourced from animals and herds of local breed or origin that are healthy and free from BSE (i.e. not infected or suspected).
- 2) Should be produced from animals of not more than 30 months of age.
- 3) The animals should not have been fed with animal protein (i.e., meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants), with the exception of milk protein.
- 4) Animals must be subject to ante and postmortem veterinary inspection.
- 5) Beef should be totally free from SRMs (i.e., brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, tonsils, intestines, and vertebral column, dorsal root ganglia).
- 6) Slaughtering, meat and/or meat products processing should be carried out under sanitary conditions as well as under the supervision of the concerned veterinary authority of the country of origin.
- 7) Slaughtering should be carried out in accordance with the Islamic rules (Halal Slaughtering) and is supervised by one of the accredited Islamic Centers or Associations by the UAE in the exporting country.
- 8) The beef should not have been mixed or contaminated with any other animal products during production and processing.