

**DECLARATION  
ON INTERSECTORAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION  
ON CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS  
IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE, STRUGA, NOVEMBER 2009**

**We, the participants from South Eastern European countries** to the MetaNET Project Thematic Scientific Conference: *Brucellosis in SEE and the Mediterranean Region*, gathered in the city of Struga, Republic of Macedonia, to engage the good offices of intersectoral networking, regional and broader international cooperation towards more efficient control and eradication of brucellosis at national, regional and international levels.

**We consider** that Brucellosis as a global zoonosis is a severe public health challenge and socio-economic problem and financial burden in many countries in the world, especially in the South Eastern European and Mediterranean region.

**We are convinced** that the future struggle against brucellosis, especially caused by *Brucella melitensis*, resides in joint efforts, promotion of intersectoral action, regional and international cooperation, as well as in technical and financial support in providing regional prerequisites and standards for efficient and effective control and eradication of brucellosis in the South Eastern European countries.

**Principles:**

- In the certainty that people of goodwill everywhere are bound by their common humanity, we are guided by the enduring principle to increase quality of life and protect human and animal health by effectively combating zoonotic diseases, especially brucellosis;
- In the certainty that knowledge guides peaceful development, we endorse sharing of all accumulated information on and experience of brucellosis, and translate our combined knowledge to practices aimed at promoting prevention, control and eradication of brucellosis at national, regional and international levels;

- In recognition that the protection of animal health, safety of food products, and environmental protection through effective prevention, control and eradication of brucellosis are intimately linked to economic development and security at national and international levels;
- In acknowledgement that a new professional and public health imperative, the concept of “One world – one health – one medicine” the cooperation among veterinary and human health services and professionals, public health and veterinary health authorities, stock-breeders and the food production industry in the SEE countries is necessary to undertake more efficient brucellosis prevention, control and elimination measures at national, regional and international levels.

#### **Resolutions:**

**We are resolved** to cooperate in public health education and joint multidisciplinary research projects in SEE countries and work towards applying proven and effective measures, and best practices for the control and eradication of brucellosis (1. Epidemiological surveillance and health promotion activities; 2. Detection and elimination of the source and identification of the transmission routes; 3. Vaccination of small ruminants, young replacement and test and slaughter programmes with real market-price compensation; and 4. Early detection and treatment of patients with brucellosis);

**We are dedicated** to promoting and encouraging the adaption of consistent legislation and measures to meet the local and regional epizootiological situations, to control movement of animals and assess the nature and extent of the diseases in animals;

**We pledge** to promote epidemiological investigations and health education aimed at increasing awareness of the risks and burden of human brucellosis in the affected communities, and to encourage health promotion, disease prevention, and intervention measures;

**We are committed** to better implementation of European and international standards related to food safety and enhancing regulations on trading in animals and animal products at the SEE regional and international levels;

**We are resolved** that an effective strategy and action plan to combat brucellosis through the aforementioned means and measures, at national and regional levels, will promote environmental protection and contribute to national and international security and economic development.

#### **Conclusions:**

The **Declaration of Struga** is an expression of concern by the participants from the SEE countries to the MetaNET Project Thematic Scientific Con-

ference on Brucellosis about the present and increasing burden of brucellosis in the SEE and Mediterranean Region and the social conscience and commitment of professionals to make a difference in the future combating of brucellosis in SEE Region.

We call upon the decision-makers within the SEE countries to enhance current and develop comprehensive national and regional strategies and action plans for intersectoral and regional cooperation to control and combat brucellosis more effectively.

We encourage the competent authorities at international level, i.e. the European Commission, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, and other international organizations, all deeply associated with improving human and animal welfare, the standard of living and quality of life by working towards the protection and improvement of human and animal health, to actively consider and adopt our Declaration, and to provide the necessary technical and financial support for transposing its contents into a practical force for change.

Together, with joint intersectoral efforts and international cooperation and support, we might defeat and eradicate brucellosis in SEE countries.

For the participants from SEE countries to the Conference: *Brucellosis in SEE and Mediterranean Region*, Struga, R. Macedonia, Nov 12–14, 2009

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