The OIE would like to thank the two participating OIE Collaborating Centres, the Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia and the Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products, for their support, as well as the focal points and national representatives for their active participation.

It was pointed out that the use of fish vaccines would be potentially beneficial to reduce antimicrobial resistance and that the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia (Japan) should continue its support to Member Countries to help them to conduct risk assessments of vaccines. Participants reiterated the need to develop standards and guidelines for veterinary products, especially anti-parasitic drugs and fish vaccines, and the importance of legal support for pharmacovigilance.

Participating OIE Collaborating Centres were reminded of the importance of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for the exchange of information on international and intercontinental animal disease threats and emergency responses. The workshop concluded with a discussion on the role of WAHIS in the OIE’s surveillance system.

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Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products

OHRID, FORMER YUG. REP. OF MACEDONIA, 18–20 NOVEMBER 2014

The Regional Seminar for Europe was organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe within the global programme for capacity-building for OIE Delegates and OIE National Focal Points (NFPs). This seminar constituted the third cycle of the seminars for NFPs for Veterinary Products, launched in 2010, and so far is the only one to have taken place for all 53 Member Countries from the European region. The first seminar for NFPs for Veterinary Products was held in Belgrade, Serbia (26–28 July 2010), followed by the second in Vienna, Austria (20–22 November 2012), both organised for selected OIE Member Countries of the Europe region, mostly from Eastern Europe. This seminar took place under the overall responsibility and technical guidance of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department.

As 10 of the 32 participating countries were Russian-speaking, the official languages of the seminar were English and Russian.

The overall objectives of the seminar were to provide participants with:

a) knowledge on OIE activities and the OIE strategy linked to veterinary products; namely: diagnostic test validation methods and kits, antimicrobial resistance, collecting quantitative data on the use of antimicrobial agents and the establishment of an OIE database, anti-parasitic drugs, veterinary products in general, and good governance

b) information on the role, responsibilities and specific tasks of NFPs in this area

c) an opportunity to share experiences and promote discussion between the countries of the region.

The seminar also included a presentation and update on the general principles of the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) and its Outreach Forum activities, aimed at promoting the wider international harmonisation of technical registration requirements for gaining marketing authorisation for veterinary medicinal products.

The agenda was organised into lectures and three small working-group sessions. The working-group sessions were dedicated to:

a) the validation, registration and marketing authorisation of diagnostic kits