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VETER 163

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Attendance of representatives of the EFTA countries, of the President of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) World Assembly of Delegates and of the WOAH Council and of the Programme Manager for Emergency Management of the WOAH at the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 5 and 6 November 2026 <i>- Approval</i>

The Presidency would like to invite the following third parties to attend the meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 5 and 6 November 2026:

- representatives of the member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA countries);
- the President of the WOAH World Assembly of Delegates and of the WOAH Council;
- the Programme Manager for Emergency Management of the WOAH.

The purpose of the representatives of the EFTA countries¹ attendance is to contribute to the discussion and share information on risk communication, biosecurity at the wildlife interface and biothreats, which are core themes of the Presidency's agenda. Risk communication, biosecurity at the wildlife interface and biothreats are shared cross border challenges. Inviting EFTA countries to share their experiences would facilitate the exchange of best practices, strengthen regional cooperation, and contribute to enhanced preparedness and resilience to One Health challenges across Europe.

Additionally, their attendance will facilitate the alignment of the EFTA countries' positions related to WOAAH with those of the EU.

The purpose of the attendance of the President of the WOAAH World Assembly of Delegates and of the WOAAH Council is to provide European CVOs with a direct update on the main outcomes of the latest WOAAH Council meeting, including progress on the ongoing governance review, the Organisation's strategic priorities and other relevant institutional developments.

Such an exchange would help strengthen the connection between the WOAAH Council and EU veterinary authorities, and provide an opportunity to receive information on developments of common interest, in particular in the context of the ongoing work on the Organisation's governance review.

The purpose of the Programme Manager for Emergency Management of the WOAAH attendance is to give a presentation on behalf of WOAAH on biological threats which is one of the main themes of the Irish Presidency.

The Presidency considers that the attendance of these third parties is in the interest of the Council and complies with the framework applicable to the occasional presence of third parties at meetings of the Council or its preparatory bodies, as set out in the comments on the Council's Rules of Procedure.

In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the representatives of EFTA countries, of the President of the WOAAH World Assembly of Delegates and of the WOAAH Council and of the Programme Manager for Emergency Management of the WOAAH at the meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 5 and 6 November 2026.