



Ministero della Salute

BOZZA D' INTERVENTO PER IL MINISTRO FERRUCCIO FAZIO

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a memorable day for the people all over the world. We witness a historical event and we are here to celebrate the global eradication of Rinderpest, a devastating cattle disease, viciously contagious and often fatal, that has been a curse to farmers throughout the ages, often contributing to famines that in turn have fuelled turbulence and war.

The disease has affected Europe, Asia and Africa for centuries causing swift, massive losses of cattle and other hoofed animals, leading to devastating effects on agriculture and leaving famine and economic devastation in its wake.

In 1924, recurrent rinderpest outbreaks in some parts of Europe, led to the creation of the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE), by 28 founding Countries, among which Italy. Rinderpest has also been a significant catalyst for the birth and development of modern veterinary science and its eradication is a monumental victory for the discipline.

Today we are here all gathered together for the final procedural step, the adoption of a resolution on the 'Declaration of global freedom from rinderpest and on the implementation of follow-up measures to maintain world freedom'

It is a great honour for me and my Country, where Lancisi, born in Rome, began fighting against rinderpest in the early 18th century, to host in Rome the 192 FAO member Countries to adopt a resolution to formally recognize this outstanding global achievement, made possible under FAO's Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme. This is the result of the successful collaboration of a multitude of Governments, international and regional organizations, the veterinary profession and the scientific community.

As it is well known, when in the 18th century Europe was constantly infected with rinderpest and the cattle plague caused widespread economic and political damage, it was Dr. Lancisi, who first suggested the control methods.

Nevertheless, Italy experienced devastating rinderpest outbreaks in the 19th and early 20th century. Afterwards it has been essentially free of the disease, except for a minor outbreak in 1949 in the Rome zoo which was quickly controlled.

Indeed, Italy has committed itself to global rinderpest eradication for a world without rinderpest. The National Reference Centre for Exotic Diseases, the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Abruzzo e

Molise in Teramo, has cooperated and collaborated with different countries, especially in Africa, in the fight against rinderpest.

Responding to a request from the FAO Director General, Dr. Jaques Diouf, Italy contributed financially to cover part of the cost of the three activities envisaged by this celebration of Global Rinderpest Eradication:

- The International Symposium held yesterday, dedicated to the accomplishment of rinderpest eradication and the obligations of the membership to ensure that the virus is properly safeguarded or destroyed following the FAO/OIE guidelines
- The reprinting of the book “De Bovilla Peste” of Lancisi and
- The realization of a monument dedicated to the eradication of rinderpest, to be unveiled

The eradication of the virus has been described as the biggest achievement in veterinary history and one which will save the lives and livelihoods of millions of the poorest people in the world, because it highlights what can be done by people working together.

Collaboration and coordination among governments, international and regional organizations, scientific institutions and international and national laboratories is still needed for future common challenges.

We have a long way to go to set humankind free from other diseases. Nevertheless, we have gained know-how and experience and we have a lot of highly qualified experts throughout the world who were involved in the eradication of rinderpest and we cannot afford having these people retire and their expertise to disappear, we need to look at the lessons learnt from rinderpest eradication and to see how they can be applied to future challenges.

I believe that the Celebration of the Global Rinderpest eradication, the first animal disease to be eradicated in the world and the second disease in the history of humankind after smallpox, will be also a move forward to eradicate other diseases, starting from “*Peste des petits ruminants*” that is causing significant economic impact on Africa’s people by constraining the livelihoods and endangering the food security of the poor and marginalized members of society, who rely on small ruminants for food and income.

My Ministry is committed to give a technical contribution in this fight.

Together we have defeated rinderpest, together we can defeat other diseases, together we can beat hunger and poverty.

Thank you.



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DIPARTIMENTO PER LA SANITA' PUBBLICA VETERINARIA,
LA NUTRIZIONE E LA SICUREZZA DEGLI ALIMENTI
Ufficio III

APPUNTO AL MINISTRO
PROF. FERRUCCIO FAZIO
Per il tramite dell'Ufficio di Gabinetto

885324/4

OGGETTO: Celebrazione della "Dichiarazione dell'Eradicazione
Mondiale della peste bovina"
(27 - 28 giugno 2011 - Roma presso la FAO)

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Si informa la S.V. Onorevole che la FAO ha ufficialmente comunicato che durante la 37^a Sessione della Conferenza Internazionale, che si svolgerà dal 25 giugno al 2 luglio 2011, sono previsti degli eventi riguardanti la Celebrazione della "Dichiarazione dell'Eradicazione Mondiale della peste bovina", prima malattia animale e seconda malattia, dopo il vaiolo umano, ad essere eradicata.

In quest'ambito, il 28 giugno si terrà una Sessione Plenaria con "Dichiarazione dell'Eradicazione Mondiale della peste bovina", alla presenza dei Ministri dell'Agricoltura o dell'Ambiente o della Salute dei 190 Stati Membri, ove, per dare maggiore visibilità al contributo italiano nell'eradicazione mondiale della malattia e nella realizzazione dell'evento, **la FAO ha previsto un intervento della S.V. Onorevole della durata di 3 - 5 minuti.**

Il giorno precedente, il 27 giugno è previsto un Simposio Internazionale sugli adempimenti ed obblighi degli Stati Membri nell'eradicare, nel conservare con sicurezza e nel distruggere il virus della peste bovina secondo le linee guida di FAO/OIE.

In proposito si informa la S.V. Onorevole che il nostro Ministero ha concretamente contribuito, nell'ambito della Celebrazione in oggetto per la realizzazione delle seguenti tre attività:

- l'organizzazione del Simposio Internazionale,
- la ristampa del libro di Giovanni Maria Lancisi, "Dissertatio Historica de Bovilla Peste, Roma, 1715", e
- la realizzazione di un Monumento.