

## ANNEX III

### COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR THE DISEASES CONCERNED

The functions and duties of the Community reference laboratories for the diseases concerned shall be:

1. to coordinate, in consultation with the Commission, the methods employed in the Member States for diagnosing the disease concerned, specifically by:
  - (a) typing, storing and supplying strains of the virus of the relevant disease for serological tests and the preparation of antisera;
  - (b) supplying standard sera and other reference reagents to the national reference laboratories in order to standardize the tests and reagents used in the Member States;
  - (c) building up and retaining a collection of virus strains and isolates of the relevant disease;
  - (d) organizing periodic comparative tests of diagnostic procedures at Community level;
  - (e) collecting and collating data and information on the methods of diagnosis used and the results of tests carried out in the Community;
  - (f) characterizing isolates of the virus of the relevant disease by the most up-to-date methods to allow greater understanding of the epizootiology of the disease;
  - (g) keeping abreast of developments in the surveillance, epizootiology and prevention of the relevant disease throughout the world;
  - (h) retaining expertise on the relevant disease virus and other pertinent viruses to enable rapid differential diagnosis;
  - (i) acquiring a thorough knowledge of the preparation and use of the products of veterinary immunology used to eradicate and control the relevant disease;
2. to assist actively in the diagnosis of outbreaks of the relevant disease in Member States by receiving virus isolates for confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epizootiological studies;
3. to facilitate the training or retraining of experts in laboratory diagnosis with a view to the harmonization of diagnostic techniques throughout the Community.