

Legal developments in the fight against waterborne and zoonotic diseases in Algeria

التطور القانوني في مجال مكافحة الأمراض المتنتقلة عن طريق المياه والحيوان في الجزائر

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Received: 30/03 /2026

Accepted: 01/05 /2026

Published: 31/05 /2026

Abstract :

This study focuses on waterborne and zoonotic diseases and the significant risks they pose to human health and safety. These diseases are among the most important issues to have benefited from a legislative framework and constitutional status, beginning with Article 63 of the 2020 Algerian Constitution, which explicitly stipulates the State's responsibility for the prevention of infectious and epidemic diseases, thus demonstrating the efforts made by the executive and legislative branches to establish a comprehensive legal framework. In this context, the role of the various central and local authorities in monitoring the fight against waterborne and animal diseases is evident. The study observes the progressive evolution of the legal framework adopted by public authorities in this area, and it focuses on analyzing the regulatory texts applied in Algeria to prevent and combat these risks.

Key words : Water, Animals, Regulatory Texts, Transmitted Diseases.

Introduction :

Public health is inextricably linked to the environment due to their close relationship, particularly because it constitutes one of the most important traditional elements of administrative control. Various administrative authorities have always sought to control it and extend their preventive and immediate monitoring, similar to maintaining public safety and order.

Consequently, various central government agencies are committed to ensuring the necessary health protection. This responsibility also appears to be fulfilled at the local level, in accordance with the provisions of Article 114 of the law relating to the wilaya (province). Although the legislation does not explicitly mention public health, local authorities have broad powers in practice in this area.

Due to problems arising from administrative regulations, there are no visible units in the public domain of the sanctuary, infectious diseases and zoonoses are present, as well as numerous risks that affect the sanctuary and the safety of people. The evolution of the COVID-19 crisis and its serious consequences are a striking illustration of this. This principle is enshrined in the Algerian Constitution, in Article 63, paragraph 2, of the 2020 Constitution, which clearly stipulates the response to be given to the disease in terms of the prevention of diseases, infections and epidemics.

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In this context, the authority of different central and local instances of the disease clears from the heart in the control of hydraulic and zoonotic diseases, to remove the sectoral ministries' special services with sanitary municipal services

Therefore, the central question of our study is the following

How many aspects of the lotion are due to the diseases being communicable in Algeria, not regarding the relevant texts? What are the instances of competent authorities in control of the organization, then on the organization plan that covers the competitions?

To answer this question, our presentation will be divided into two parts, according to the following plan :

First part: This part will be saved on the screen of the lutte containing maladies hydriques and zoonoses in Algeria.

- This part : This part examines the organisms charged by the lutte, against hydration maladies and the zoonoses in the world, in the organization and its competitors.

- Part Two : We will discuss the bodies responsible for combating waterborne and animal diseases in Algerian law, in terms of organization and powers.

Title 1: Theoretical framework for the fight against waterborne and animal diseases in Algeria

In this section, we will discuss the concept of waterborne and animal-borne diseases and explain their types (section 1) , and then we will discuss the standard development of the regulatory text relating to the control of waterborne and animal-borne diseases (section 2).

1.1-First Subtitle: The concept of waterborne and animal-borne diseases and an explanation of their types

Waterborne diseases differ from animal diseases in their nature, severity, and effects on the human body and the environment. It is therefore necessary to distinguish

between these diseases and examine how Algerian law addresses this difference, as we will see in the following paragraph.

A : waterborne diseases

Given the essential role of water in daily life, it is a priority for public authorities to ensure the distribution of drinking water free from all pollution, which is often fatal. This pollution occurs in two ways: – Directly: by drinking untreated water or by bathing in a polluted water source, such as lakes¹ or beaches

Indirect method : This involves consuming vegetables irrigated with polluted water, as well as fish or other animals living in polluted waters. This method is more harmful and dangerous than the direct method because some pollutants accumulate biologically in fish and other living organisms, and their concentration in fish can be much higher than in the water².

There is a list of maladies associated with water pollution and various gravitational influences, such as fire typhoid, shigelloses, cholera, delta hepatitis and amniotic fluid, which form all of these menaces directly to health and health.

Sanitary experts have confirmed that the infection in polluted areas can enter respiratory infections and oculaires, as well as rash³.

The promotion of these maladies is due to the use of water and potable water, which applies to local authorities, in the municipal municipality, those diseases in the past. For consequent, more detection and interference are Citizens' health.

B : zoonotic diseases

Just as many diseases are transmitted to humans through water, there are also many, equally dangerous, that are transmitted by animals. A recent medical study indicated that more than half of all infectious diseases affecting humans originated in animals. Scientists estimate that animals are responsible for the spread of six out of ten known infectious diseases, many of which are fatal and can spread rapidly, as was the case during the corona virus pandemic⁴.

When harmful germs are transmitted from an animal to a human, this is called a zoonosis, and these animals can be pets such as cats or dogs.

Among the most significant diseases are rabies, malaria, zoonotic influenza, Ebola virus disease, and the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), whose devastating effects continue to be felt worldwide.

In Algeria, particularly in remote areas where stray dogs are numerous and often carry rabies, a disease transmissible to humans, municipalities are organizing campaigns to eradicate these dogs for fear of the spread of this dangerous and deadly disease.

When brucellosis tops the list of these diseases in Algeria, followed by foot-and-mouth disease, all three resulting from the consumption of sheep or beef products respectively, the health authorities, in coordination with the agricultural services, strive. In coordination with provincial agricultural authorities, particularly the veterinary service, and municipal hygiene services, vaccination campaigns against these two diseases are planned, as they spread mainly in the summer, a period of high demand for milk and cheese produced by these animals, which are a direct source of disease transmission.

Insect-borne skin diseases are a significant concern in this type of pathology due to their danger to human health and their ease of transmission. In Algeria, leishmaniasis, transmitted by mosquitoes, poses a real threat and often causes permanent skin lesions.

Article 14 of Executive Decree 20-341, which established the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases, defined the list of zoonotic diseases that were described as having the same priority, namely: rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, salmonellosis, echinococcosis, hydatidosis, leishmaniasis, and Rift Valley fever.

This list is subject to periodic updates by decision of the minister in charge of the National Veterinary Authority, after consultation with the relevant National Committee⁵.

1.2-Second Subtitle: Standardized evolution of regulatory texts relating to the fight against waterborne and animal diseases

Anyone who follows the legal issue relating to the fight against waterborne and animal diseases will notice the remarkable evolution in terms of the standard value of the legal text, moving from the joint ministerial decision serving as a model for this regulatory text (First) to the executive decree serving as the model currently in force and which regulates the field of the fight against these diseases (second) .

A : The joint ministerial decision serves as a model for regulatory texts relating to the fight against waterborne and animal diseases

This model of regulatory texts is considered the starting point for the fight against waterborne diseases, beginning with the joint ministerial decision of 1987, which was repealed in 1996 by a joint ministerial decision itself amended in 1998

- **The first regulatory text relating to the creation of committees to combat waterborne diseases was published in 1987.**

The joint ministerial decree of March 2, 1987, establishing committees responsible for the ongoing monitoring of programs to combat waterborne⁶ diseases, is considered the first regulatory text addressing the establishment of a committee specifically dedicated to this fight. This text provided for the creation of a joint ministerial committee, in addition to the local committees established at the wilaya, district, and municipal levels.

It can therefore be stated that this text was promulgated around the same time as Law 85-08 concerning health and its promotion⁷. This legislation established a new health strategy in Algeria, focused on adapting to national and international health challenges. Among the mechanisms enabling this adaptation is the fight against waterborne and animal diseases .

Public Administration control, while incorporating elements of traditional administrative control, is oriented and allocated to the protection and improvement of the environment due to its importance and potential impact on the health of individuals⁸.

Articles 32, 33, and 34 of Law 85-05 (repealed by the provisions of Law 18-11 of July 2, 2018, relating to health⁹) addressed the issue of access to drinking water and considered it a health priority, entrusting the responsibility for the drinking water supply to the regulatory authorities, while Article 52 of the same law stipulated.

The direct responsibility lies with the governors, officials, health authorities and the presidents of municipal people's councils for the prevention of infectious diseases and the elimination of the root causes of diseases, including waterborne and animal diseases, even if the legislator has not explicitly mentioned them in this case and without specifying the source and mode of transmission of the infection.

However, in general, the publication of a text relating to the fight against these types of diseases known to human societies occurred very late, within an estimated period of about 25 years after independence and within a period of about four (4) years after the publication of the law relating to the environment of 1983.

This raises numerous questions about the reasons and motivations behind this delay.

This delay could have direct negative consequences for human health and the environment, given that environmental and health regulatory authorities are the bodies directly concerned and are often the ones that make decisions and adopt preventative measures to preserve the environment and its various components, in order to achieve their primary objective: protecting public health and the environment for citizens.

The default of this text is not clear in the context of this context before the publication of the decision minister joined on May 26, 1996, with a summary of this decision's dispositions.

- **The text provides for the creation of the National Committee and its auxiliary committees in accordance with the regulatory text of 1996.**

The joint ministerial decree of May 26, 1996¹⁰, as amended and supplemented by the joint ministerial decree of March 3, 1998¹¹, stipulated the creation of the National Committee for the Fight Against Waterborne .

Diseases, assisted in its tasks by a ministerial operational committee at the central level and local provincial and municipal committees.

The amended text of this decision, published in 1998, aimed to correct certain errors in the previous text, including

The addition of Article 8 bis, which explicitly stipulates the creation of the provincial committee and the district and municipal committees, as the previous text dealt directly with the formation of these committees and their missions.¹²

- The text provides for the establishment of a new regulatory¹³ mechanism, namely the creation of interstate committees, or even several if necessary, by joint decision of the Ministers of the Interior, Health and Equipment, if the question concerns an area of activity covering a complementary and The secretariat of the provincial committee of the departments of organization and public affairs will be transferred to the departments of the provincial general secretariat, chaired by the governor or their representative, and composed of the directors of organization and public affairs¹⁴, health and population, water resources, budget planning and monitoring, agricultural interests, mines, and commerce. The committee will meet weekly.

However, returning to the idea of transforming the Provincial Committee Secretariat into a general secretariat rather than a Directorate of Organization and Public Affairs is a logical step, as it practically aligns with the powers granted to the provincial secretary general by the provisions of Executive Decree No. 22-54 of February 2, 2022, which provides for the creation of an Executive Council for the province and defines its missions, organization¹⁵, and operation. nterdependent hydrographic basin, as well as the definition of its territorial

perimeter, its missions, its composition and its operation.

The most important of these functions is the supervision of the technical secretariat of the state executive council, and ultimately, the director of the organization is merely a member of that body

The most recent text, dated the same day, defines the missions of the provincial committee under the governor's authority and all those attributable to it:

- Evaluate travel times for services provided.
- Develop an annual work program for the prevention of water supply failures.
- Ensure the strict implementation of the program by all stakeholders.
- Allocate a site within the district and municipality for the implementation of these new missions, while ensuring the supervision and control of their activities.
- . - Prepare a weekly evaluation report of the work program and submit it to the relevant ministry.
- Prepare a monthly report to be submitted to the joint national committee responsible for monitoring and controlling waterborne diseases.

B : Strengthening legal attention to the fight against waterborne diseases and zoonoses after 2019

The fight against waterborne diseases benefits from prior constitutional protection which has resulted in legislative and regulatory measures, as we will explain in the following paragraph.

- **priority constitutional protection for the prevention and control of epidemics and infectious diseases**

The issue of preventing waterborne diseases is fundamentally enshrined in the Constitution. Article 51 of the 1989 Constitution stipulates the right of citizens to health and specifies that the State is responsible for the prevention and control of

epidemics and infectious diseases. Waterborne and zoonotic diseases certainly fall within this framework.

The 1996 constitution also retained the same constitutional wording for the preceding article in its article 54, and maintained it in its subsequent amendments.

- **a genuine constitutional framework for preventing waterborne diseases, excluding diseases of animal origin**

What can be considered a truly relevant constitutional addition regarding our is relevant to our study. is what the 2020 Constitution included in its article 63, in the first paragraph, which stipulates that the State must guarantee citizens access to drinking water and work towards its preservation for future generations.

Although the founder of the Constitution did not explicitly mention waterborne diseases in this article, it is implicitly understood that the preservation of this essential resource inevitably follows from it. Preserving water and distributing it safely and adequately to citizens .

necessarily implies that it be free from infectious diseases and pose no epidemic risk. This is a fundamental aspect.

Furthermore, the inclusion by the founder of the Constitution of this protection in the same constitutional article and its second paragraph, which dealt with the fight against all epidemics and infectious diseases, supports the idea of implicitly declaring the protection of water against diseases transmitted by this element essential to human life.

However, the aforementioned constitutional article did not stipulate diseases transmitted by animals and therefore falls, in this case, under what was included in the same article 63, in the second paragraph, which dealt with the fight against epidemics and infectious diseases

- **Publication of the regulatory text applicable to the year 2019 concerning the creation of the provincial committee and the administrative district committees for the prevention of waterborne diseases.**

The period following the promulgation of Law No. 18-11 on health was marked by the publication of several new legislative texts, in line with the vision for the future of public health. Among these is Executive Decree No. 19-196 of July 10, 2019, which established a national committee for the prevention of waterborne¹⁶ diseases. This decree provides for the creation of a national committee and a central operational committee to ensure national coordination in the fight against these diseases.

Despite the appointment of members to the National Committee for the Prevention of Waterborne Diseases by ministerial decree of February 26, 2020, as amended¹⁷, the Ministry of the Interior continues to identify numerous problems related to industrial wastewater discharges that pollute the environment and threaten public health. To this end, monitoring committees have been established and strict instructions have been given to prefects to address these problems, while also strengthening the role of municipal health services¹⁸ After a detailed examination of the aforementioned regulatory text, we noted that several details were missing which would affect its formal structure, which we summarize in the following points:

Based on Articles 99 and 143 of the Constitution, which grant regulatory powers to the Prime Minister, this regulation makes no reference to Articles 66/1 and 66/2 of the 2016 constitutional amendment, which were in force at the time of its adoption. These articles concern the guarantee of healthcare by the State and the prevention of infectious and epidemic

diseases. Similarly, it makes no mention of Article 68, amended at that time, which enshrines the citizen's right to a healthy environment. This right is closely linked to access to water, an essential element for life.

No reference was made to Law 84-09, which includes the country's territorial boundaries, as amended and supplemented, nor to Presidential Decree 15-140, which establishes administrative districts within certain provinces and defines the specific rules related to them, as amended, even though the regulatory text in question includes the establishment of provincial committees at the state level and at the level of administrative districts.

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It was supposed to be based on the joint ministerial decision of 26/05/1996, as amended and cancelled by executive decree 19-196, since it was the last legal text dealing with the formation of this committee and defining its missions.

- **Publication of the regulatory text applicable to the year 2020 relating to the creation of the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Transmissible Diseases from Animals to Humans²⁰.**

The fight against zoonoses received a significant boost with the publication of Executive Decree No. 20-341 of 22/11/2020, which provides for the creation of the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses Transmissible to Humans This regulatory text followed previous ministerial decrees by which the State attempted to combat several zoonoses, without, however, resulting in the creation of a specialized national committee. Among the most important of these texts and ministerial decrees are:

- Ministerial Decree of May 30, 1966, concerning the control of animal plague.
- Ministerial Decree of June 2, 1964, concerning the control of foot-and-mouth disease.
- Joint Ministerial Decree of July 17, 1995, concerning sanitary measures applicable to animal rabies.
- Joint Ministerial Decree of December 26, 1995, containing provisions relating to the prevention and control of bovine tuberculosis.

Joint Ministerial Decree of December 26, 1995, containing provisions relating to the prevention and control of bovine brucellosis. This committee was officially established under the ministerial decision issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on November 30, 2021, as amended .

2-Tilte: Bodies responsible for combating waterborne and zoonotic diseases under Algerian law: organization and jurisdiction .

Administrative bodies at all levels are effective mechanisms available to public authorities to exercise administrative control powers, as we see in the subject of our intervention, where we find central bodies which have powers of national scope (first

Subtitle), and we also find local bodies whose powers are limited to the local level and to the limits of a specific geographical region (second Subtitle).

2.1-First Subtitle : Central bodies

These committees include the specialized national committees (A) as well as the practical committee for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases (B).

A : Specialized national committees

The regulatory texts were based on the division of the subject dealt with by each committee, thus we find the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases (first) and the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Diseases Transmissible from Animal to Human (second).

- **The National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases**

In the following section, we will discuss the organization of the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases (1) and Competences (2).

- Structure of the comité :

This committee is chaired by the Minister of the Interior and Local Authorities or their representative, whose ministry also provides the secretariat, in accordance with Article 9 of Executive Decree No. 19-196.

It is composed of representatives from several ministries concerned by this issue, including:

- A representative from the Ministry of National Defense

The secretaries-general of the following ministries: Interior, Local Authorities and Urban Planning; Religious Affairs; National Education; Higher Education and Scientific Research; Vocational Training and Education; National Solidarity, Family and Women's Affairs; Industry and Mines; Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries; Housing, Urban Planning and Cities; Trade; Communication; Public Works and Transport; Water Resources; Tourism; Health, Population and Hospital Reform; and Environment. - The Director General of Algeria Water.

- The Director General of the National Sanitation Office.

The committee may also request assistance from any organization or individual in the course of its work.

The National Committee meets in ordinary session every three months, convened by its Chairperson. It may also meet in extraordinary session, convened by its Chairperson or at the request of one-third of its members.

The Chairperson of the committee establishes the agenda and sends it to the members of the National Committee at least 15 days before the date of the meeting. This period may be reduced for extraordinary sessions.

However, the deliberations of the National Committee are valid only if half of its members are present. If a quorum is not reached, the ordinary meeting of the committee is convened within 8 days of the date of the adjourned meeting, and the committee then deliberates regardless of the number of members present.

The deliberations of the National Committee are decided by a majority vote of the members present. In the event of a tie, the president's vote is decisive. The deliberations are recorded in writing in minutes, entered in a special register, numbered and initialed by the president. The Committee also has the right to draw up and approve its own rules of procedure.

- Its Functions

Executive Decree No. 19-196 established the National Committee, a permanent body responsible for assisting in decision-making, consultation, coordination, support, monitoring, and evaluation in the area of prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

This same regulatory text also defines the Committee's responsibilities, which include, in particular: developing, approving, and defining the implementation mechanisms for national programs for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

- Evaluating the human, material, and financial resources that the relevant sectors should mobilize to implement programs for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.
- Strengthen intersectoral coordination by proposing joint practical measures.
- Develop a joint intersectoral information, communication, and awareness-raising plan.
- Provide input on any draft legislation or regulations related to the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.
- Receive, evaluate, and approve activity reports prepared by the various sectors involved, the operational committee, and local committees.
- Monitor the evolution of waterborne diseases and the implementation of measures taken to combat them.
- Propose any research activities within its remit.
- Prepare an annual report on its activities in the field of waterborne disease prevention and control and submit it to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the relevant sectors.

The National Committee is placed under the supervision of the Minister responsible for the National Veterinary Authority, which is the Ministry of Agriculture, and is responsible for its secretariat, unlike the National Committee for the Control of Waterborne Diseases, which was under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior.

The National Committee, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture or their representative, is composed of representatives from the following ministries and sectors:

• National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases

We will discuss its organization (1) and then its functions (2) according to the following paragraph:

– **Its organization:** The National Committee is under the supervision of the Minister responsible for the National Veterinary Authority, which is the Ministry of Agriculture²¹, and is responsible for its secretariat²², unlike the National Committee for the Control of Waterborne Diseases, which was under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior.

The National Committee, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture or their representative, is composed of representatives from the following ministries and sectors:

Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Regional Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Health,

Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of the Pharmaceutical Industry, National Health Security Agency, Directorate General of Forests, National Gendarmerie Command, Directorate General of National Security, and Directorate General of Civil Protection.

In addition to the High Commissioner for Steppe Development or his representative, the President of the National Chamber of Agriculture or his representative, the Director General of the National Institute of Veterinary Medicine, the Director General of the National Institute of Public Health, as well as the Director General of the Pasteur Institute of Algeria and the Director General of the National Institute for Plant Protection, the committee has the possibility of requesting the assistance of any person it deems useful for the accomplishment of its missions, taking into account their skills²³.

The National Committee drafts and approves its rules of procedure²⁴. It may also establish specialized committees²⁵. Members are appointed for a five-year term by decision of the Minister responsible for the National Veterinary Authority, upon the proposal of the authorities and bodies to which they belong. Upon the expiry of a member's term on the National Committee, their replacement is appointed following the same procedure for the remainder of the term.

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– Its specializations : Executive Decree 20-341 conferred upon this committee a permanent role of consultation, coordination, support, monitoring, and evaluation of all work related to the prevention and control of zoonoses. This same regulatory text also defined the responsibilities of this committee, which are as follows:

- Monitor and disseminate alerts in the event of an outbreak or epidemic of animal infection .

- Develop and promote national prevention and control programs, and approve their implementation plans.

- Regularly update the list of priority zoonoses for prevention and control.

- Assess the human, material, and financial resources that the various sectors must mobilize to implement prevention and control programs.

- Approve and update intervention plans.

- Monitor and evaluate planned programs and their implementation.

- Ensure the coordination and consistency of sectoral intervention plans.

- Develop an information, awareness, and social communication plan.

- Contribute to the drafting of all texts related to prevention and control.

- Provide the necessary technical assistance to the various sectors involved.

- Review the activity reports of the various sectors involved, as well as the reports of the provincial committees.

- Prepare and publish an annual report on the evolution of zoonoses and the measures taken.

- Establish and develop working relationships with all relevant national and international organizations dealing with zoonoses. - Propose any research activities relevant to its mission²⁷ .

B : The Practical Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases

To assist the National Committee in its duties, a special committee, called the "Operational Committee," was created. It is headed by a director from the central administration, appointed by the Minister of the Interior and Local Authorities.

This committee is responsible for the following :

- Propose and develop procedures for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

- Supervise the work plans of local committees and provide them with structuring, equipment, and logistical support.

- Monitor local committees, conduct field visits, prepare reports, and submit them to the National Committee.

- Prepare a semi-annual (every six months) report on its waterborne disease prevention and control activities and submit it to the National Committee.

- Propose elements of a communication and awareness plan for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases to the National Committee.

- Develop and approve its internal regulations²⁸.

As for the composition of this committee, it includes representatives from the ministries that are members of the national committee, chosen from among senior state officials, as well as representatives of the Director General of the National Sanitation Office and the Director General of Algeria Water. The operational committee may also request assistance from any organization or individual to help it in its work

Article 14 of Executive Decree No. 19-196 stipulates that the term of office for members of this committee is five (5) years, renewable once by decision of the Minister of the Interior and Local Authorities, upon the proposal of the authority to which they report. Upon the expiration of a committee member's term, they shall be replaced under the same conditions for the remainder of the term²⁹.

The operational committee of the Ministry of the Interior meets in ordinary session every three months, convened by its chairperson³⁰. It may also meet in extraordinary session, either at the call of its chairperson or at the request of one-third of its members.

This auxiliary committee has no equivalent within the National Committee for the Prevention of Zoonoses, which raises questions about the reasons for the absence of such a body within that committee .

. 2.2-Second Subtitle : local authorities responsible for combating waterborne and animal-borne diseases .

These local bodies responsible for combating waterborne and animal-borne diseases are the State Committee and District Administrative Committees for the Prevention of Waterborne Diseases (first), the State Committee for the Prevention and Control of Animal-to-Human Diseases (second), and the District and Municipal Committees (third).

A: the Provincial Committee: and the District Administrative Committees for the Prevention of Waterborne Diseases.

Executive Order 19-196 defines the organization of these committees and specifies their responsibilities, which we will discuss in the following section.

- Organization of the Wilaya Committee and the Administrative District Committees for the Prevention of Diseases of Hydrological Origin: Article 17 of Executive Decree 19-196 stipulated the composition of the two committees, chaired by the Wali and the

Wali Delegate or their representatives as appropriate, and including the Secretary General of the Wilaya or the Administrative District as appropriate, as well as the Wilaya Directors and the Delegate Directors as appropriate, in charge of the following sectors:

- Organization and public affairs, local administration, religious affairs and foundations, national education, vocational training and education, social activity, industry and mines, agricultural interests, urban planning, architecture and construction, housing, public facilities, commerce, public works, transport, water resources, tourism, health, population and hospital reform, environment, civil protection, with the participation of the commander of the National Gendarmerie Group, the head of State security, the representative of Algeria Water, the representative of the National Sanitation Office.

The provincial or district administrative secretariat retained its role as the committee's secretariat, in accordance with the practice established by the previous 1998 regulations³¹.

Provincial or district committees meet in ordinary session once a month, convened by their respective chairpersons. They may also meet in extraordinary session at the request of their chairperson or one-third of their members. The proceedings are recorded in writing in minutes entered in a special register, which is numbered and initialed by the chairperson.

It is worth noting in this regard that, in addition to the evolving legal status of the regulations concerning the control of waterborne diseases, the most recent text demonstrates a greater maturity in addressing practical realities. Indeed, it is impossible for the provincial committee to meet weekly, even under normal circumstances, due to the disruption this would cause to administrative operations, given that the previous regulations of 1996, as amended.

The text left no room for the issue of representation, mandating the presence of the provincial directors themselves. Therefore, extending the duration of meetings to one month, as stipulated in the current regulations, is more practical than before.

This period can be automatically shortened during extraordinary sessions, in accordance with Article 18 of Executive Decree No. 19-196³²

- **The Competence of the provincial committee and the administrative district committees**

regarding the prevention of waterborne diseases: These responsibilities are as follows:

- Develop an annual action plan for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases at the regional and departmental levels, as needed.

- Supervise and support departmental and municipal committees in carrying out their duties.

- Develop an intervention plan in the event of a health emergency or epidemic, and organize and coordinate the actions of the relevant sectors.

- Ensure the monitoring and oversight of the activities of departmental and municipal committees.

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- **The responsibilities of the provincial committee and the administrative district committees**

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- Supervise and support departmental and municipal committees in carrying out their duties.

- Develop an intervention plan in the event of a health emergency or epidemic, and organize and coordinate the actions of the relevant sectors.

- Ensure the monitoring and oversight of the activities of departmental and municipal committees.

- Prepare a monthly progress report on the work plan and submit it to the operational committee for evaluation and monitoring.

- Propose to the national committee all measures likely to promote and improve the prevention and control of waterborne diseases

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- Propose to the national committee all measures likely to promote and improve the prevention and control of waterborne diseases³⁵.

B: The Provincial Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases

- **Organization:**

The Wilaya Committee, chaired by the Wali or their representative, is composed of the following members for the Wilaya:

The Director of Agricultural Services, the Director of Commerce, the Director of Health and Population, the Director of the Environment, the Director of Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources, the Forestry Commissioner, the Wilaya Veterinary Inspector, the Commander of the Regional Group of the National Gendarmerie or their representative, the Wilaya Security Chief or their representative, the Wilaya Civil Protection Director or their representative, the President of the Wilaya Chamber of Agriculture or their representative, the Director of the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, the Director of the Regional Station of the National Institute for Plant Protection, or the Phytosanitary Inspector. The Wilaya Committee may request the assistance of any person whose expertise³⁶ can contribute to the fulfillment of its

Legal developments in the fight against waterborne and zoonotic diseases in Algeria

missions. It is also authorized to draft and approve its internal regulations. The Wilaya Veterinary Inspector³⁷ serves as the Committee's secretary.

The provincial committee meets in ordinary session once every six (6) months, upon convocation by its president, and may meet in extraordinary session upon convocation by its president or at the request of the director of agricultural services or the provincial director of health and population.

- **competence:**

- Monitoring and promptly notifying the National Committee of any threat related to an epidemic or outbreak of animal disease.

- Implementing planned programs.

- Implementing response plans.

- Organizing and coordinating the work of intervention agencies and structures in the event of a declared threat, epidemic, or outbreak of zoonosis.

- Proposing to the National Committee any measures aimed at improving the prevention and control of zoonoses.

- Preparing regular reports on the evolution of zoonoses and communicating to the National Committee any obstacles encountered during the implementation of the national zoonosis prevention and control program.

- Developing a schedule of awareness and training days on the various zoonoses.

C : District and municipal committees

We will address these committees, which are included in chapter five of executive decree 19-196, which referred the question of their organization, formation, operation and determination of their tasks to a decision issued by the Minister of the Interior, which was incorporated by the decision of 17/06/2021³⁸.

- **The District Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases**

The aforementioned ministerial decision provided for the composition of this committee, placed under the authority of the head of department and composed of the secretary general of the department, who also provides the secretariat of the committee, the heads of the technical services of the State at the departmental level, a representative of the National Gendarmerie, the head of security of the department, a representative of the Civil Protection services, the presidents of the municipal people's councils under the jurisdiction of the region of the department and the heads of the municipal structures in charge of the preservation of public health and hygiene³⁹.

The same ministerial decree defined the competences of this committee as follows:

- To ensure the monitoring, coordination, implementation, and application of all action plans and programs developed by the provincial or district administrative committee for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

- To supervise the work of municipal committees and support them in carrying out their duties, and to coordinate activities and measures requiring inter-municipal cooperation for the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

Monitor and promptly report any outbreak of waterborne disease to the provincial or district committee.

Organize and coordinate the work of response teams and structures in the event of an outbreak in the district.

Propose to the provincial or district committee all measures likely to promote and improve the prevention and control of waterborne diseases.

The departmental committee meets at the departmental headquarters once a month in ordinary session, convened by its chairperson. It may meet in extraordinary session as needed. Its deliberations are recorded in minutes and entered in a special register, numbered and initialed by the chairperson.

- **The Municipal Committee for the Prevention and Control of Waterborne Diseases:**

The municipal committee, under the authority of the mayor, is responsible for implementing all activities and measures related to the prevention and control of waterborne diseases within the municipality.

The committee may submit to the district committee any measures aimed at promoting and improving the prevention and control of waterborne diseases, or may take such measures itself if necessary.

The committee is composed of the mayor or their representative from among the members of the municipal council, who chairs the committee; the municipal secretary general; the head of the municipal hygiene and health department; up to two representatives from the municipal hygiene and health department who are municipal employees subject to the framework law relating to employees of local authorities; up to three representatives from the municipal hygiene and health department who are employees of other state technical services; one representative from the territorially competent security services; and one representative from the civil protection services.

The municipal committee meets at the town hall once a month in ordinary session, convened by its chairperson, and may meet in extraordinary session as needed.

Although Executive Order 20-341 did not include the creation of district and municipal committees to prevent diseases transmitted from animals to humans, which, in our opinion, should be reconsidered, the work of the committee cannot be complete without the existence of such committees at the district and municipal levels, similar to what is done at the level of committees for the prevention of waterborne diseases

Conclusion:

Anyone who follows the evolution of Algerian legislation concerning the fight against waterborne and animal diseases will observe the gradual development of the regulatory framework implemented by the public authorities, in publishing the regulations. The first legislative text addressing this subject was a joint ministerial decree in 1987, followed by another joint ministerial decree in 1996, which was itself amended in 1998.

- So Establish a specific legislative framework to combat waterborne and zoonotic diseases by adopting a separate law. Despite the abundance of existing legislation in Algeria, this issue deserves particular legislative attention, which should be more precisely reflected in regulations, as it has a direct impact on people's lives and safety and represents a crucial aspect of environmental management, particularly at the local level.

- Unify the committees for combating waterborne and zoonotic diseases within a single regulatory framework. There is no need to multiply the committees, which dilutes their effectiveness. A unified national committee, supported by a unified operational committee, should be created; all of these committees would be designated as the Committees for Combating Waterborne and Zoonotic Diseases. Similarly, committees should be established at the wilaya (province), district, and commune levels. A standardized work program should be adopted for the periodic meetings of these committees, in order to minimize their frequency, ideally monthly, while ensuring continuous meetings in the event of an epidemic or detected infectious disease, until its eradication.

Citations and References:

- ¹ _ The WebTeb website was accessed at the following address:
<https://www.webteb.com/articles>
- ² _ Ibid
- ³ _ The website was accessed at the following address: <https://www.webteb.com/articles>
- ⁴ _ Consult the website <https://arabicpost.net>
- ⁵ _ Official Journal No. 71 of 02/12/2020, p. 12.
- ⁶ _ Official Journal No. 18 dated 29/04/1987, p. 679.
- ⁷ _ Official Journal No. 08 of 17/02/1985, p. 176
- ⁸ _ M.M. Zainab Abbas Mohsen, Administrative Control in Iraq, Journal of the Rights Message, number 3, Faculty of Law, University of Karbala, Iraq, 2013, p. 149
- ⁹ _ Official Journal No. 46 of 29/07/2018, p. 03.
- ¹⁰ _ Journal officiel no. 81 on 22 December 1996, p. 36
- ¹¹ _ Official Journal No. 23 of 19 April 1998, p. 27
- ¹² _ As adopted for the Chelif Valley watershed under the joint ministerial decision published on 03/03/1998, Official Journal No. 23 of 19/04/1998 p. 28.
- ¹³ _ M.M. Zainab Abbas Mohsen, Administrative Control in Iraq, Journal of the Rights Message, number 3, Faculty of Law, University of Karbala, Iraq, 2013, p. 149.
- ¹⁴ _ As adopted for the Chelif Valley watershed under the joint ministerial decision published on 03/03/1998, Official Journal No. 23 of 19/04/1998 p. 28.
- ¹⁵ _ Article 6 of Executive Decree 22-54, Official Gazette No. 9 of February 3, 2022, p. 5. Although the previous, now repealed, text—namely Executive Decree No. 94/215 of July 23, 1994—which defined the organs and structures of the provincial public administration, was clearer regarding the powers conferred upon the Secretary General of the Province, which included:
 - Supervision of administrative work and ensuring its continuity.
 - Control of the work of all state services located in the province.
 - Coordination of the work of the provincial directors.
 - Activation and coordination of the work of the structures responsible for documents, archives, and summaries.
 - Control of the work of the provincial organs and structures... etc.
- ¹⁶ _ Official Journal No. 45 of 17/07/2019, p. 07
- ¹⁷ _ Official Journal No. 24 of 26/04/2020, p. 15.
- ¹⁸ _ Website of the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Regional Planning <https://interieur.gov.dz/index.php/> Date of visit: 20/04/2022.

¹⁹ _ Presidential Decree 15-140 of 27/05/2015, as amended, Official Gazette No. 29 of 31/05/2015, p. 03.

²⁰ _ Executive Decree No. 20-341 of 22/11/2020 establishing the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonotic Diseases, Official Gazette No. 71 of 02/12/2020, p. 12.

²¹ _ Article 3 of Decree 20-341 establishing the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses, Official Journal No. 71 of 02/12/2020, p. 12

²² _ As stated in Article 9 of Executive Decree 20-241.

²³ _ Confirmation of the article's dispositions 5 of the execution method 20-241.

²⁴ _ Dispositions 6 du decree executive 20-341

²⁵ _ Start in the article 7 of the previous section 20-341

²⁶ _ In accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of Executive Decree 20-341.

²⁷ _ In accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of Executive Decree 20-341

²⁸ _ In accordance with Article 12 of Executive Decree 19-196,

²⁹ _ This was initiated in the decision-making ministry on 02/26/2020, including the nomination of practical committee members for the prevention and the control of hydraulic maladies, telling you how to modify it, Journal officiel no. 24 on 04/26/2020, p. 15.

³⁰ _ As stated in Article 15 of Executive Decree 19-196

³¹ _ As stated in Article 19 of Executive Decree 19-196.

³² _ For example, the census of cases of mixing wastewater and drinking water, administratively classified as "dangerous black zones", or the census of epidemic cases.

³³ _ As stated in Article 19 of Executive Decree 19-196.

³⁴ _ For example, the census of cases of mixing wastewater and drinking water, administratively classified as "dangerous black zones", or the census of epidemic cases.

³⁶ _ In accordance with Article 16 of Executive Decree 20-341

³⁷ _ As stated in Article 17 of Executive Decree 20-341.

³⁸ _ Journal officiel n° 60 du 05/08/2021, p. 24.

³⁹ _ In accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Ministerial Decision of 17/06/2021.