



FVE Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2010

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COMPANION ANIMALS “TO BE INCLUDED IN AW ACTION PLAN”

“An effective and reliable system of dog registration are crucial for successful animal health and welfare management, not only to reunite stray dogs with their owners, but also to help prevent illegal puppy trading and to promote responsible ownership”. So said Christophe Buhot, FVE vice president, capturing the opinion of those present at the conference *“Responsible Dog Ownership in Europe”* held in Brussels on 4 and 5 October. The conference, organised by CARODog, an initiative of “Four Paws” and Istituto G. Caporale, attracted 100 participants from over 25 countries, representing European and national institutions, International Organisations, NGOs, private sector and veterinary organisations. Regarding canine overpopulation, there was also a broad consensus that this should be addressed by the prevention of unwanted puppies, control of stray dogs and responsible dog ownership.

The conference also called for institutional action, urging the Council of the EU to recognised the importance of companion animal welfare as a

relevant issue for EU legislation, while the EU Commission should include references to companion animals in the second Animal Welfare Action Plan.

Areas for action, according to the conference conclusions, include the regulation and licensing of breeding and trade, EU-wide compatible identification – and registration. *“Without registration, identification is of little value and traceability is an important tool to fight diseases and to protect welfare.”*, Christophe Buhot stressed, calling for a mandatory pet identification, registration in a national database and the transmission of ID numbers to a central European database. FVE is an active project partner of CARODog

Good Governance of Veterinary Services



“Modernising
Veterinary Legislation

for Good Governance” was the title of the global conference organised by OIE earlier this month. Participants considered that many countries don’t have up to date veterinary legislation and therefore are not well placed to meet health challenges and social expectations. Insufficient participation of private veterinarians as well as insufficient development of public-private veterinary partnerships was considered as a main reason for inadequate disease prevention and control.

Another important topic for discussion was the need for well functioning Veterinary Statutory Bodies: national authorities autonomously regulating and licensing veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, provided that minimum standards for education and for professional conduct are met. Where the Veterinary Statutory Body fails to do its work properly, one cannot rely on the quality of veterinarians and their services.

Questioned by representatives of the profession, the OIE Director General clearly stated that every one who works as a veterinarian should be regulated through the Veterinary Statutory Body, private veterinarians as well as official veterinarians regardless their position. Working as a veterinarian brings a professional responsibility and accountability that follows the interests of animal health, animal welfare and public health, even though it might conflict with other interests.

Especially nowadays with growing societal expectations towards the role of the veterinary profession it is vital that this responsibility is recognised and respected by regulators and by the profession itself.

Jan Vaarten, Executive Director

ANIMAL HEALTH

EU VETERINARY WEEK

Preparations of the 2011 edition well underway

Following the success of previous events, the FVE, DG Sanco and its partners¹ are now preparing the next EU Veterinary Week, which will be held in Brussels on 19 and 20 May 2011. The overall theme will be the role of veterinarians in society, while the conference will focus on crisis management and vaccination policies.



Group picture with all students

On 15-16 November, a student seminar was held which was attended by 52 students from 48 teaching establishments. Participants were informed about the background, history and partners of the EU veterinary week and on the second day, an interactive session was held to gather new ideas and suggestions. It was the third and largest student seminar of the kind held so far.

¹ World organisation for animal health (OIE), COPA, UECEV, Eurogroup for animals and FESASS

BLUETONGUE

Commission to allow vaccination in disease-free areas

The European Commission is taking advantage of technological developments to consolidate the suppression of Bluetongue disease in the EU. Currently, rules laid down in the Directive, prohibit the use of vaccination in areas that are now Bluetongue-free. The amendment changes this, thus opening the way for preventive vaccination, which is of paramount importance as it is difficult to predict where new outbreaks might emerge. Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli said: *“Vaccination has proven itself as the most effective tool to control and prevent the disease and to facilitate safe trade of live animals. Thanks to the massive vaccination campaign, and the recent development of new vaccines, only 120 outbreaks were reported throughout the EU in 2010, compared to 45,000 in 2008”*.

ANIMAL CLONING

Temporary suspension of cloning for food

On 19 October, the European Commission announced it will propose a temporary suspension of animal cloning for food production in the EU. The Commission also plans to suspend temporarily the use of cloned farm animals and the marketing of food from clones. All temporary measures will be reviewed after five years. The establishment of a traceability system for imports of reproductive materials for clones, such as semen and embryos of clones is also envisaged. The system will allow farm-

ers and industry to set up database with the animals that would emerge from these reproductive materials.

ANIMAL WELFARE

CARODOG

EU-wide identification & registration of pets “feasible and necessary”

A joint statement on identification and registration of companion animals in the European Union was released on 12 November by representatives of national, EU and international organisations working on databases for companion animals².

The signatories stressed that “*identification, registration and traceability are essential tools to promote the responsible ownership of companion animals*” and that a compatible system of data management is “*feasible and necessary*”. They call for the establishment of a Europe-wide registration of companion animals. Mandatory identification, registration and traceability would not only support minimising the risk of zoonoses and constitute an important aspect of One Health, but would also enable efficient reuniting of pets and owners.

The signatories of the statement agreed that this process, rather than leading to increased bureaucracy and costs, would actually simplify many procedures and save taxpayers’ money at the local and national level,

facilitating the reunion of lost pets with their families. European-wide compatible systems of data management should be further developed, and established. Veterinarians should play a key role as the professional approach for the identification and



registration, education of the public and promotion of this message. From coming January, CAROdog will issue a monthly newsletter and hold regular webinars.

HISTORIC DECISION

Council calls for the EU protection of cats and dogs

FVE welcomes the “historic agreement”, reached by EU Member state representatives on 1 December, on a joint EU action to protect dogs and cats through a harmonised policy on identification, breeding and trade. Council conclusions were adopted on the welfare of cats and dogs, put forward by the Belgian presidency, which call upon the Commission to:

- to work towards a harmonisation of the internal market if the breeding and trade of dogs and cats
- to study and propose ways to facilitate compatible systems of identification and registration of dogs and cats

- to restrict the exhibition and trade of dogs and cats that have undergone non-curative surgery (not aimed at preventing reproduction)

- to promote responsible dog and cat ownership and support educational campaigns on the impact of non-curative surgical interventions on animal welfare.

These conclusions are now to be taken into account when drafting the second EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals. FVE is particularly pleased about the outcome in view of the proactive role the Federation’s members have played in this matter over the past years.

LEGISLATION

Illegal puppy trade now a criminal offence in Italy

The illegal trade of pets is now an officially recognised crime under the Italian Legal System. Three to 12 months’ imprisonment and a €3,000 to €15,000 fine can be expected by anyone who repeatedly or as an organised activity introduces, sells or buys dogs or cats without identification (microchip or tattoo), and without the required health certificate and/or passport. Individual buyers and single offenders will be pursued, too, under the Illegal Introduction of Pet Animals. The penalty varies from €100 to €1000 for every dog or cat introduced in Italy without identification, and from €500 to €1000 for every dog or cat carried or sold without the required Health Certificate and/or the European Pet Passport.

In both cases, the penalty will be raised if the pets are under 12 weeks of age or come from areas with restrictive veterinary measures.

² <http://www.carodog.eu/>



PIG CASTRATION

Ban castration by 2018 and creation of European partnership

From 1 January 2012, the surgical castration of pigs should be performed using prolonged analgesia and/or anaesthesia. And from 1 January 2018, surgical castration of pigs should be abandoned altogether in the EU – with the exception of pig meat registered under “*traditional specialties guaranteed*” or with “*geographical indications*” and of pig meat produced for certain traditional high quality products. These are the main milestones set out in the draft common position on the alternatives to surgical castration of pigs. On the invitation of the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency and following a workshop on alternatives for pig castration, representatives of European pig producers, meat industry, retailers, veterinarians and animal welfare NGOs met in Brussels on 19 November. Rens van Dobbenburgh (UEVP vice president) participated on behalf of the FVE.

To ensure the implementation of the end of surgical castration, the following tools shall be available:

- Mutually recognised methods for the assessment of boar taint;
- European recognised reference methods for the measurement of each of the compounds responsible for boar taint;
- Rapid detection methods for boar taint in slaughter plants
- Reduction of boar taint compounds by pig breeding and/or management and feeding;
- The production systems and management of entire males during rearing, transport and at slaughter, to minimise sexual and aggressive behaviours.

An annual public report shall assess the progress in the development and effectiveness of these tools. The

draft position also calls for the creation of a European partnership on pig castration, supported and funded by the European Commission, in order to ensure a sustainable and competitive pig meat chain in the EU. The Commission invited the organisations represented in the pilot group to confirm their endorsement and FVE is pleased to have signed it.

REGULATION OF WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT (1)

EFSA to finalise its scientific opinion

The draft scientific opinion on animal welfare during transport was presented by the Animal Health and Welfare Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) at a technical stakeholders meeting on 13 October.

The European Commission requested EFSA to assess the most recent scientific information on the welfare of animals during transport of the main farm animal species. Risks for the welfare of the transported animals should be presented according to the criteria described in annex 1 of the Regulation (n° 1/2002), including fitness for transport, watering and feeding intervals, journey times and resting periods and space allowances. Outcome-based welfare indicators, based on the observations of the animals, which can be used by transporters and veterinary inspectors in the field, should also be included in the opinion. The EFSA opinion is expected in the coming weeks.

REGULATION OF WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT (2)

Commission prepares report on stakeholder impact

The European Commission has released details on a new consultation round with stakeholders. It is currently examining concerns on the collection of personal data for the tracking of vehicles by satellite navigation. The 2005 Regulation requires that the Commission issue a report on the implementation of the legislation by January 2011. External consultants from the IBF Consortium have been asked to study the impact of the Regulation, both on the animals and the operators. The FVE is one of the stakeholders to take part in the consultation.

EQUINE WELFARE

Forum on horse transport: “lack of enforcement”

“*Improving the welfare of horses during transport; the importance of enforcement*” was the title of the forum held on 29 November, organised jointly by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and the FVE. Some 100 participants attended the symposium, including representatives of the European Commission and of equine veterinary and welfare organisations, to discuss the implementation and enforcement of the Transport Regulation concerning horses.

The improvement of animal welfare during transport and enforcement of the current rules was “*high on the Commission’s agenda*” stressed Alf Füssel, head of Trade and Zoonotics at DG Sanco. Andrea Gavinelli, of the Animal Welfare Unit (DG Sanco), said

he was looking forward to the results of the impact report of the Transport Regulation.

pression lead to pleuropneumonia, colic and exhaustion.

The presentations are available on the FVE website.



Willy Baltussen (IBF, the Netherlands) reported that an average of 130,000 horses is transported each year over long distances through Europe. *“31 to 36% transported horses travel over 24 hours, the highest percentage of all domestic species”*. Most of the transport originated in Eastern Europe (Poland, Latvia, Romania) or Spain and were destined for in Southern Italy, where there was a high price paid for live horses for the so-called *“local production”*. And non-compliance with the transport rules paid off, he said, roughly halving the cost of transport. *“Compliance will only be within reason if there is good enforcement”*.

Jo White (World Horse Welfare) and Christa Blanke (Animals’ Angels) described the findings of a high rate of poor horse welfare during transport, which was confirmed by the experience of veterinary inspectors Alexander Rabitsch (Austria) and Mario Sapino (Italy). Gianluigi Giovagnoli described the physiological impact of the stress of transport on horse health, explaining how stress-induced dehydration and immune sup-

Two parallel panel discussions were held in the afternoon, on horses transported for slaughter and horses transported for other reason such as shows and competitions. Reliable identification of slaughter horses, respect of journey times and a central database were among the key areas identified. The participants also called for more clarity over the meaning of ‘registered equidae’ and the definition of commercial and non-commercial transport. The day concluded with the announcement of the BEVA Trust Equine Transport Enforcement Award. This award has been instigated with the express intention of ensuring that the BEVA/FVE Transport Forum serves not as an end in itself, but as the starting point for practical changes to enforcement in the field which will improve equine welfare across Europe. The award (€1000) will be given annually to the individual or group of individuals working in the field that does the most to improve the enforcement of equine transport regulations. Nominations are open and can be made via the FVE and the BEVA Trust.

SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING

Halal meat “agrowing market”

The welfare of animals at the time of slaughter was the topic of guest speaker Haluk Anil (Cardiff University, partner of the Dialrel project). Speaking at the FVE General Assembly in Brussels on 12 November, he gave an outline of the project and religious requirements of Halal and Shechita slaughter practices. Contentious issues and current problems with Halal practices included the lack of certification and auditing standards, a need for trained slaughtermen and animal welfare compromises. The animal should be alive at the time of slaughter and the blood should flow, according to the religious requirements. Stunning was often considered acceptable and there was more flexibility in the rules than widely believed, according to Dr Anil. However, slaughter without stunning is still practiced and promoted by some groups and certifiers.

Studies had shown that brain activity (cortical function) and signs of consciousness could last a long time in cattle after the cut. Visually evoked response in cattle continued for well over 50 seconds after neck cutting (Shechita) compared to less than 16 seconds in animals stunned by captive bolt. Studies comparing blood loss at slaughter showed no difference between ruminant animals slaughtered with or without stunning, invalidating the hypothesis that stunning “impeded and reduced blood blow”. Demand for Halal meat has gone up in recent years more than the increase in Muslim populations in certain European countries. Increase in supply of Halal labels and product ranges indicate an expanding

market in countries like France and UK, he added, with some retailers (KFC, Quick) actively “advertising” the availability of Halal meat. Labelling is also a currently debated issue, insufficient information on labels makes consumers unaware of the fact that some meat may come from animals slaughtered without stunning. A video featuring Dr Anil and other experts of the Dialrel project commenting on ritual slaughter filmed undercover in a Dutch abattoir was shown to the members of Dutch parliament in November³.

Country	lamb	sheep
Belgium	40%	92%
France	80%	80%
Netherlands	?	80%
Spain	15%	20%
Austria	?	<5%
UK	5.2%	2%
Czech Republic	1%	0%
Cyprus	0.08%	0%
Germany	marginal	
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Sweden	0%	0%

Total percentage of animals slaughtered without prior stunning (source: DG SANCO)

PUBLIC HEALTH

REVISION OF MEAT INSPECTION

“Veterinarians should take the lead and embrace modernisation”

The “knife-free” veterinary inspection of pigs is possible, according to pilot studies carried out in Germany and Denmark. This was one of the key findings at the 2nd Roundtable Conference on the Revision of Meat Inspection, held in Brussels on 25th October, with a special focus on pig meat inspection.

“Clear veterinary leadership in the modernising of meat inspection is necessary, confirmed Robert Huey, senior president of the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists, who attended the Conference on behalf of FVE. The meat hygiene inspection system has changed dramatically in the last 10 years – and will continue to evolve. “The profession should embrace the modernisation process, bringing about change for the public good, improving consumer protection”. The best way to protect the profession and veterinary jobs was by retraining and creating new roles, he said. A third conference is planned for April 2011.

MEDICINES

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (1)

Codex: “Good veterinary practice part of risk management”

Good veterinary practice should be part of the recommended approach of the risk management of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), according to paragraph 47 of the draft guidelines on foodborne AMR of the Codex Alimentarius, which have now reached their final phase. The guidelines were produced by the ad hoc intergovernmental task force on antimicrobial resistance, which held its fourth session in Muju (Republic of Korea) from 18-22 October⁴. Inclusion of GVP was obtained thanks to the efforts of the World Veterinary Association which was represented in Korea by current WVA president and former FVE president Tjeerd Jorna.

The draft guidelines have now been forwarded for adoption to the Commission of the Codex Alimentarius.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (2)

Transatlantic Task Force holds stakeholder consultation

The transatlantic task force on antimicrobial resistance (TATFAR) is holding a public consultation⁵ be-

³ <http://www.volkskrant.nl/vk/nl/2704/Video/video/detail/1054902/Undercover-beelden-van-rituele-slacht.dhtml>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/ifsi/eupositions/tfamr/tfamr_index_en.print.html

⁵ <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/disease-programmes/TATFAR/Pages/Consultation.aspx>

tween 17 November and 17 December 2010. The objective is to use the feedback for drafting the TATFAR report to the EU-US Summit of 2011. It could also provide input for other policy initiatives in relation to antimicrobial resistance. In particular, the services of the Commission invite comments on the three focus areas of the TATFAR as defined in the 2009 EU/US Summit Declaration:

- Appropriate therapeutic use of antimicrobial drugs in the medical and veterinary communities;
- Prevention of both health-care- and community-associated drug-resistant infections;
- Strategies for improving the pipeline of new antimicrobial drugs.



FVE will participate in the consultation on behalf of the veterinary profession in Europe. TATFAR was created following the EU-US Summit of November 2009 and aims to conclude its work by March 2011, but may continue beyond this timeframe with the consent of all parties.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (3)

FVE to draft species-specific guidelines on antibiotic use

Chief Veterinary Officers of EU Member States welcomed EPRUMA⁶, of

which FVE is a founding member, as a *"partnership of stakeholders"* from both the health and agriculture sectors and acknowledged its contribution to the antimicrobials debate, during their annual meeting in Antwerp on 29th September 2010. FVE Executive director Jan Vaarten was invited to give a presentation while the FVE Board and Section Presidents were invited to the meeting.

The CVOs asked the FVE to elaborate *"appropriate and agreed guidelines for the responsible use of antibiotics in the different species"*. The FVE working group has drafted a general position paper and will now develop both general and species-specific guidelines. The FVE will work closely together with its Swedish and the German member organisations which have already produced similar guidelines.

At their meeting, the CVOs identified a need for *"additional scientific research"* to allow a better understanding of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and *"an urgent need for an EU-wide, harmonised system to monitor the use of antimicrobials"*. It also favoured a multidisciplinary approach and a comprehensive strategy on AMR and called for *"cost-effective, risk-based and sustainable"* measures. The use of some antimicrobials might need to be restricted, while farmers, veterinarians and students should be trained in the *"best practices"* regarding animal husbandry. The use of critically important antimicrobials should be *"subject to well-defined and science-based criteria"*, while it underlined the importance of a closer cooperation between the animal and human health sectors. The CVOs also called for *"strict enforcement of the existing regulatory framework against inappropriate and excessive use of antimicrobials"*, *"minimizing"* their preventive use and *"ensuring that cascade use is reduced to exceptional cases"*. They highlighted the importance of appropriate biosecurity and husbandry and indicated

that it may be necessary to monitor the use of antimicrobials at farm level in order to identify how much they are used and take appropriate action if necessary.

REVISION OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINES DIRECTIVE

Commission to consider cascade and e-commerce in new proposal

FVE vice president Christophe Buhot gave an update on the revision of the Directive on veterinary medicines⁷ during the general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), on 11 November. He reported that recent contacts with the Commission (Patricia Brunko) had indicated that both use of the cascade and e-commerce were likely to be considered in the new proposal, expected in 2012.


ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY

Responsible use 'essential'

To mark European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2010 on 18 November, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) warned veterinary surgeons in the UK that failure to use antimicrobials responsibly could result in their use being restricted. The BVA actively promotes the responsible use of antimicrobials and

⁷ Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products; http://ec.europa.eu/health/files/eudralex/vol-5/dir_2001_82/dir_2001_82_en.pdf

⁶ <http://www.epruma.eu/>



last year published a poster and guidance for vets: 'Responsible use of antimicrobials in veterinary practice: the 8-point plan' (see Newsletter of February 2010). BVA President Harvey Locke commented: *"Antimicrobial resistance is an enormous problem for both human and animal health. As veterinary surgeons we have a duty to use these medicines responsibly for the good of animal health and welfare as well as public health. Failure to heed the message of responsible use could result in vets losing the right to prescribe certain medicines, which could have a significant impact on animal health and welfare. On Antibiotic Awareness Day our message to vets is clear: use them responsibly or lose the*

EDUCATION

VETERINARY TEACHING ESTABLISHMENTS

Evaluation: currently 48 out of 100 schools 'approved'

László Fodor, president of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), guest speaker at the November general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners, gave an update of the evaluation of veterinary schools.

The EAEVE now had 100 member schools in 34 countries. At the time of his presentation 48 of the 100 veterinary teaching establishments were approved. He explained the background of the evaluation system and the detailed functioning of an evaluation visit. In 2010, 19 establishments had been visited, and 11

were planned for 2011. Updating the standard operation procedures, the visiting expert list and an improved harmonisation of visits were among the goals during his mandate, professor Fodor added.

ECOVE MEETING

Padova, Zaragoza, Bristol, Bursa, Cordoba, Teramo: approved

At the 22-23 June meeting of the European committee on veterinary education (ECOVE), which carries out visits to veterinary establishments throughout Europe to evaluate whether they conform to the Directive 2005/36, the following conclusions were made:

Approved: Faculties of Padova (Italy), Zaragoza (Spain), Bristol (UK), Bursa (Turkey), Cordoba (Spain); Not approved: Cáceres (Spain), Wrocław, Warsaw (Poland); conditionally approved: Pisa (Italy).

At the meeting of 30 November and 1 December, the faculty of Teramo (Italy) was approved, while Afyon (Turkey) and Timisoara (Romania) were not approved. Copenhagen (Denmark) and the Vetsuisse faculty (Switzerland) both gained accreditation for stage II. Together with Helsinki (Finland), there are now 3 stage-II accredited veterinary teaching establishments in Europe.

ECOVE is a joint committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the FVE. the list of approved schools can be found on the EAEVE web site.

FVE & PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

NOVEMBER GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FVE adopts strategic plan 2011-2015

The FVE general assembly, held on 12 and 13 November in Brussels, was attended by over 130 delegates, including the presidents of World Veterinary Association and of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The FVE Strategy 2011–2015 and the herd health plan were adopted and the Belgian Order of Veterinarians was welcomed as a new FVE member. Guest speaker Susanne Waiblinger from the Vienna University of Veterinary Medicine gave a presentation on the human-animal interaction and Hanuk Anil (Department of Clinical Veterinary Science, University of Bristol) gave a presentation on religious slaughter (see page Slaughter without stunning). Other topics discussed at the meeting included the transport of animals, piglet castration, antimicrobial resistance, Vet2011 and the modernisation of meat inspection. The four FVE sections (representing veterinarians in practice, state-employed veterinarians, veterinary hygienists and those in industry, research and education) also held their General Assemblies in Brussels, while the FVE Statutory Bodies working group held its 2nd plenary session. The next FVE general assembly will be held in Palermo (Italy) on 10 and 11 June 2011.

UEVP GA

UK: nearly 70% of veterinary working time spent on pets

The end of the economic crisis seems in sight for veterinary practices, according to Rens Van Dobbenburgh (UEVP vice president), who gave a presentation on practice economics during the general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners, on 11 November in Brussels.

A slight increase in practice turnover was noted in the UK and the Netherlands between 2008 and 2010, although not sufficient to cover the increasing costs. In France, an increase of 7.5% was noted in the farm animal sector. Practices in the UK, the Netherlands and France were dependent for up to two thirds of their income from the sale of medicines. In the UK, women now made up 50% of the veterinary workforce, reported Andrew Robinson, U EVP vice president, who presented the 2010 RCVS survey of the UK veterinary profession⁸. In terms of working hours, the largest proportion of veterinary working time (35.7 %) is spent on dogs and 29 % on cats, with a total of 69.4% of their time spent on small animals overall. Only 7% of the working time was spent on cattle and 10% on horses. Other guest speakers included László Fodor (EAEVE, see Ecove meeting) and René Beaumont (France), who gave a presentation on the veterinary profession in France. Other topics discussed at the U EVP GA included antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and meat inspection.

⁸ http://www.rcvs.org.uk/Shared_ASP_Files/UploadedFiles/rcvs/21A563A2-548B-4FD8-AFC5-35D3CF209256_surveyprofession2010_summary.pdf

SERVICES DIRECTIVE

“Lack of trust and protectionist tendencies main constraint”

The Services Directive was high on the agenda of the plenary session meeting of the Statutory Body working group, held on 11 November. The first guest speaker Sophie Maletras from the European Commission (DG Internal Market), gave an update on the Services Directive (2006/126/EC), covering the implementation, administrative cooperation and the establishment of so-called electronic single points of contact.

Regarding the cooperation, she underlined the importance of the Internal Market Information System (IMI), promoting the exchange of information. Lack of trust and protectionist tendencies including language barriers proved to be the main constraint. In this respect, she recalled that the Directive prevented Member States from imposing additional requirements to incoming service providers – unless this is justified by public policy, public security, public health or protection of the environment. In 2010, the Directive had been reviewed internally and through feedback from an open consultation. Report on a mutual evaluation process is currently being prepared.

Therefore Christine Fraser, head of registration at the Royal College for veterinary surgeons of the UK (RCVS), explained the ‘fitness to practice’ concept according to the RCVS procedure, as well as the basic registration requirements. She also provided some data on the number of veterinary surgeons registering each year in the UK. She furthermore identified the main problems

experienced by veterinary surgeons and the RCVS regarding the use of the IMI.

TAIEX CONFERENCE

Improvement veterinary services in Ukraine



“Strengthening the Livestock Sector and Veterinary Services in Ukraine” was the title of a Taiex conference organised by the FVE in Kiev (Ukraine) on 2 and 3 November.

Some 200 participants attended the conference, which included a wide variation of topics ranging from Public health to veterinary medicines and veterinary education. Speakers included Robert Huey (role of the veterinarian in public health), Marcel Wanner (veterinary education), Peter Jones (responsible use of antimicrobials), Andrew Chirkowsky (identification and traceability) and Geert Opsomer (Herd health management).

There were also speakers from the OIE, the FAO, the European Commission and FVE. Aim of the conference was to give a better understanding of the main EU legislation and programmes related to the veterinary profession. This was the first meeting of the kind in Ukraine, a country with a population of nearly 50 million, nearly 40,000 veterinarians (of which 32,000 working as official veterinarians) and 22 veterinary faculties.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR.....

OKSANA RUD, PRESIDENT OF THE UKRAINIAN VETERI- NARY ASSOCIATION

What is the current situation of the veterinary profession in Ukraine?



In Ukraine (pop. 46 million), the veterinary profession is governed by the State. Veterinary Services cover diagnostic laboratories, veterinary police, border and transport inspectors, two institutes for veterinary medicines and vaccines as well as veterinary practices. Currently, there are 32,000 state veterinarians and 7,000 practitioners. The Ukraine Veterinary Association has 20,000 members, and one of our most important goals is to develop private veterinary practice. The veterinary profession in Ukraine is developing rapidly, especially in the field of companion animals.

Unfortunately, our veterinary education does not lead to a desired level of qualification. Students have too little practical training, and many teachers have never been in practice themselves.

What was your impression and evaluation of the last TAIEX meeting held in Kiev?

The TAIEX seminar “Strengthening of livestock health and veterinary services in Ukraine” was organized in collaboration with FVE. It was attended by veterinary representatives from the veterinary service, educational establishments, state and private practitioners. It was very important and helpful, especially now that Ukraine wishes to implement the new veterinary legislation and pursue the gradual transition to private practice. We received very valuable information from our European colleagues, exactly corresponding to our needs.

What steps will your Association take in the coming months?

Challenge number one is to create a statutory veterinary body in our country! We are now drafting legislation regarding a statutory veterinary body and we would be very grateful for any input from our European colleagues! We will continue to develop lifelong learning for veterinarians in the form of workshops and conferences and hope to achieve its recognition at the State level. We also aim to further develop international cooperation. Challenge number one is to create a statutory veterinary body in our country! We are now drafting legislation regarding a statutory veterinary body and we would be very grateful for any input from our European colleagues! We will continue to develop lifelong learning for veterinarians in the form of workshops and conferences and hope to achieve its recognition at the State level. We also aim to further develop international cooperation.

MISCELLANEOUS

SWEDISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Honorary membership for Nancy De Briyne and Karin Östensson

Nancy de Briyne (FVE Deputy Executive Director) and Karin Östensson (associate professor at the Department of clinical sciences, SLU, Uppsala and long-standing FVE delegate) were awarded Honorary Membership of the Swedish Veterinary Association (SVF) on 6 October 2010, on



the occasion of the Association's 150 years anniversary celebration. Honorary Membership was awarded to Nancy for *"her outstanding, devoted and competent work, particularly in the fields of animal welfare and veterinary education"* at the European level. Although Nancy's contribution is in part related to her position in FVE, *"her commitment and driving force lies beyond what can be expected from her professional position, and deserves special recognition"*, according to the SVA.



Karin Östensson was awarded Honorary Membership for *her extraordinary work as President of the Swedish Veterinary Association 2003-2009*". Thanks to Karin's strong commitment, the Association became a recognized actor at the national and international arenas with a prospering active dialogue with politicians, authorities and NGOs.

OBITUARY

Jean Blancou (1936-2010)



Jean Blancou, former Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) from 1991 to 2000, died on 10 November at the age of 74. Son of wildlife expert Lucien Blancou, Jean qualified as a veterinarian from Toulouse veterinary school in 1960. After a degree in tropical medicine, he started his career as technical advisor of the veterinary services of Ethiopia, where he was in charge of the Rinderpest eradication campaign. This was followed by postings in Niger, Madagascar and Senegal, before returning to France in 1977, where he headed the Research centre for rabies in Nancy, and later the Food safety agency department in Alfort. In 1991, he became Director General of the OIE, position he held until his retirement in 2000.

Mirko Šinković (1950-2010)

FVE regrets to announce the death of Mirko Šinković. Mirko qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the faculty of Belgrade in 1976 and started his career as a mixed veterinary practitioner in several parts of the country, obtaining the title of veterinary inspector in 1985. A growing interest in companion animals lead him to the specialist degree of carnivore health in 1988 and in 1991 he became the founding owner of the first private veterinary polyclinic of the (then) Republic of Yugoslavia. In 2001, he ob-

tained his PhD in canine orthopaedics and since November 2003, he was director of the zoological garden of Palić, near Subotica, in the north of Serbia. He was also very active in the professional organisations of his country, and was vice president of the Serbian veterinary chamber from 1996 to 2000. He also taught radiology and physical medicine at the veterinary faculty and was a regular contribut-



to newspaper columns and radio talk shows, an international canine judge and a keen pilot of small aircraft. He was representative of his country at the FVE and the UEVP since 1998, where he was widely appreciated for his enthusiasm, dedication and sense of humour. The FVE offers its warmest condolences to his family.

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The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 46 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries and 4 Sections, regulated by the law on international societies in Belgium.

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