



Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

Newsletter – November 2014

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Shaping tomorrow's future

Animal health and economics – topics that spring to mind with these words are the costs associated with large outbreaks of animal diseases or the impact on the trade of animals and their products. Yet they also concern research investments, disease prevention or the effect of companion animals on their owner's health. While they do not necessarily make big headlines, these and many others are also subject to economic decisions.

Economics – making decisions and choices in the allocation of scarce resources in order to achieve different goals – is to a very large extent about why people do what they do. Or even why they don't do what they ought to do. It takes into consideration behaviour and how it is determined by what people value. It is not just money that matters, but everything people care for.

Economics help to understand why individual animal owners see things differently from politicians and institutions. It also gives an insight into why people might not comply with good advice, or how to increase the effectiveness of such advice.

A good education and training in understanding the structure and functioning of different animal species, relevant diseases, public health implications, animal welfare and behaviour are what defines the veterinary professional. However additional training and a good understanding of economics will help to become a more effective veterinary professional.

This is why FVE participates in the NEAT project¹, which helps to put animal health professionals in touch with professionals educated in animal health economics. It strives to enhance general understanding and awareness, and to create a sustainable network for sharing and developing teaching resources. In other words, it helps to shape tomorrow's world.

Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive Director

¹ <http://www.neat-network.eu>

Animal health

Pet travel

FVE publishes Q&A on new rules



From 29 December 2014 the legislation will change in respect to pet travel rules and pet passports for EU citizens travelling inside or outside the EU.

Where can I get a pet passport? What is the minimum age for pets to travel? When is tapeworm treatment required? Is identification by tattooing allowed? These and other questions are addressed by an 11-page Questions & Answers document² produced by FVE in collaboration with the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) and the European Commission.

² http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/044_questions_and_answers_re_new_pet_passport_regulation_0210.pdf

Fish health & welfare

FVE Aquaculture WG prepares report

The FVE working group on Aquatic Animal Health and Aquaculture has drafted a A4-page report titled '*Vet-erinary aspects of aquatic animal health and welfare, aquatic and or-namental fish trade*'. It touches upon the health, welfare and sustainability of European aquaculture, the availability of medicines, involvement of the veterinary profession, veterinary education in aquatic medicine and the trade and movement of orna-mental fish. It also issues a number of recommendations. The draft report will be presented for adoption at the FVE general assembly in November. It will become publicly available in December.

Horse ID & registration

FVE calls for central EU database

On 12 September, a Commission proposal to revise the



identification of horses was endorsed by EU Member States' experts, the

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. The introduction of a compulsory centralised database in all Member States will hopefully assist the competent authorities to better control the issuance of the passports by different passport issuing bodies. The Regulation will apply from 1 January 2016.

FVE welcomes the improvements but expects that the obstacles for the traceability of horses in Europe still need to be overcome. The European parliament will now discuss the proposal. On 22 September, MEP Françoise Grossetête (PPE) also formulated a written question³ to the Commission on the same topic.

European parliament

FVE delegations meet MEPs

Early October, Italian and German FVE delegations met with new members of the European Parliament (MEPs), in particular those with key positions in the EP's Agricultural and Environmental Committees AGRI and ENVI. The aim was to introduce FVE and to present them with the Federation's key position papers on the

³ Question for written answer E-006516/2014 to the Commission by Françoise Grossetête (PPE). Subject: Traceability of horses in Europe

Animal Health Law, animal welfare, official controls, public health, veterinary medicines, the veterinary profession and veterinary education.

MEP Giovanni La Via, chairman of the European Parliament Committee (ENVI) in charge of Official Controls legislative proposal and food safety dossiers, met with Gaetano Penocchio and Mario Tolasi (both of the National Italian Veterinary Order FNOVI) and Francesco Proscia (FVE Office).

The German delegation, consisting of Hans-Joachim Götz and Heiko Färber (German Veterinary Practitioners Organisation BpT) and FVE executive director Jan Vaarten met with three German MEPs: Peter Liese (a medical doctor and member of ENVI committee), Karl Heinz Florenz (ENVI) and Albert Dess (AGRI).

4 October

FVE celebrates World Animal Day

On the occasion of world animal day, 4 October, representatives of the FVE and of the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) joined the European Commission on their stand, together with the International fund for animal welfare (IFAW) in Elsene/Ixelles, in the suburbs of Brussels.

The theme was *'animals in the city'*. On the stand, the FVE helped to underline the importance of responsible pet ownership. The programme also included demonstrations of dog trainers, exhibitions, workshops and a competition for the most sympathetic dog.

Animal welfare

Animal welfare

FVE sets up working group

Members of the new working group on animal welfare, set up jointly by the FVE and the Union of European Veterinary practitioners (UEVP) are: Lotta Berg (Chair, Sweden, academia), Thomas Blaha (Germany, academia), Roberto Bardini (Italy, practitioner/industry), Fabien Loup (Switzerland, state veterinary officer), David McKeever (Ireland, state veterinary officer), Borut Zemljic (Slovenia, large animal practitioner), Ben Mayes (UK/ FEEVA seat, horse practitioner) and Monique Megens (NL/ FECAVA seat, companion animals).

The working group will draft an action plan at their 19 November meeting.

Act4Animals

Animal welfare at the heart of the EU

'Putting animal welfare at the heart of the EU' was the topic of the Act4Animals conference organised on 7-9 October by Eurogroup for Animals, in collaboration with the intergroup on the Conservation and welfare of animals of the new European Parliament.

Bans on conventional cages for laying hens, on individual sow stalls and on animal testing for cosmetics were among the key animal welfare achievements in the past four years in the EU, recalled Andrea Gavinelli (Animal Welfare Unit of the European Commission).

He confirmed that the Commission will continue to put efforts in pro-



moting EU values on animals abroad thanks to cooperation, both on bilateral level, such as free trade agreements (FTAs)/cooperation forums with Chile, Brazil and New Zealand, as on multilateral level with the World Health Organisation and the FAO. He also announced several studies that are currently being conducted: into education on animal welfare (expected end 2014), on information to consumers on the stunning of animals (end 2014), on the welfare of dogs and cats in commercial practices (2015) and a study on system restraining bovine animals by inversion or other unnatural positions (2015).

Joanna Swabe (in the picture above) of Humane Society International agreed there were reasons to be proud of the achievements in the EU. However, she recalled that, for example, *'the US is not of the same mind-set'* and that the EU's *'more advanced animal welfare measures are often viewed as protectionist and as forming unnecessary barriers to trade, because most US farmers don't meet EU's higher welfare standards.'* She stressed that *'the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) must be a 21st Century Free Trade Agreement with respect to animal welfare, animal testing and research, and conservation, serving as the standard for future FTAs'.*

Lyon

Animal welfare workshop

On 13-14 October, Lyon hosted an Animal Welfare Workshop organised by the FVE jointly with the European Commission, the Lyon Veterinary School (VetAgro Sup) and the French Associations of Veterinary Practitioners (SNVEL, SNGTV).

Some 100 participants (picture on your right) attended the workshop, which aimed to *'provide veterinarians with a deeper understanding of animal welfare'*. The workshop consisted of four sessions – pigs, horses, cattle and zoo animals – each with a theoretical and practical part, including the use of welfare assessment tools in practice. All presentations will be available on the website of the European Commission⁴. Similar workshops have been held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga (Latvia), Sinaii (Romania), Lasize (Italy), Zeist (Netherlands) and Warsaw (Poland). So far, over 1,200 veterinarians from more than 27 countries have attended these workshops.



Public health

Zoonoses

Callisto: final recommendations adopted

From 22 to 24 October, the experts of Callisto – the European think tank on diseases transmitted by companion animals – met for a final time, in order to adopt common recommendations that contribute to reducing the risk for i- met for a final time, in order to adopt common recommendations that contribute to reducing the risk for infectious disease transmission from companion animals to man and food animals.

The recommended actions are based on the outcome of the previous cycles that identified knowledge and technology gaps in the management of such risks. The recommendations have now been regrouped per topic, prioritised and organised in a 'what-why-how' manner. Topics of recommendations include:

- Demographics and tracing/movement of companion animals

- Education and communication (risk communication, responsible pet ownership, education of human doctors, veterinarians and pet owners, One Health)

- Surveillance of zoonotic pathogens and their vectors in companion animals

- Companion animals as source of disease in humans and farm animals

- Infection control (risk factors, vaccination, diagnostics, multidrug resistant bacteria)

- Host-pathogen interaction

As part of this final three-day conference, the consortium shared some of their preliminary conclusions with a wider public invited for an open seminar. Speakers at the seminar included Professor Steve Dean, chairman of the Kennel Club (UK), Bruno Chomel, professor Population Health and Reproduction at UC Davis and James Serpell, professor of Animal Ethics and Welfare at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. A panel discussion was led by Professor Michael Day, WSAVA One Health Committee chairman and member of the Callisto executive board.

A final version of the report is currently in preparation. It will be pre-

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/information_sources/ahw_events_en.htm

sented to the European Commission disseminated to other relevant stakeholders and the wider public.

One health

Making a powerful concept work

A 'One Health' event was held in London on 13th October, organised by the Bella Moss Foundation in collaboration with the Comparative Medicine Network and the Epidemiology & Public Health Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). Aim of the conference was 'to review current issues relating to the prudent use of antimicrobials and to infection control in animals and humans and to identify areas where action is required.'

Experts from both fields presented the critical aspects of antimicrobial resistance and infection control, highlighting the imperative of the 'One health-one world' approach in order to tackle them.

The meeting was attended by representatives of organisations active in both medical and veterinary sector, academics, veterinary practitioners and physicians. FVE was represented by Despoina Iatridou, who participated in the discussions and the poster session with the recently produced leaflet: 'Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians advise how to use antibiotics responsibly'⁵.

Public health

FVE warns against consumption of raw milk

'Many people tend to believe that foods that have not been processed are better for their health. However, very often the opposite is true. Since ages, food is processed to eliminate micro-organisms that can make people sick.' So starts a recent press release by the FVE⁶, warning against the consumption of raw, unpasteurized milk and raw milk-based dairy products. *'In recent months, several European countries have reported outbreaks of diseases which were directly related to the drinking of unpasteurised raw milk. These*



cases should not have occurred as they could have been prevented.' Raw milk and raw milk-based products may contain many pathogens that can cause severe illness (including vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever and headache), such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Salmonella species*, *E. coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *bovis*, *Brucella species*, *Coxiella Burnetii* and *Yersinia enterocolitica*. The bacteria may even

be fatal vulnerable groups such as children and older people.

Ebola Virus

FVE against 'systematic euthanasia' of in-contact pets

Following a recent court order in Spain to euthanize the pet dog of a nurse who tested positive for the Ebola virus, FVE urges that this case 'should not create a precedent where euthanasia is automatically considered the preferred option'.

Although it is possible that dogs may harbour the virus – particularly in en-

demic areas where they may roam and have access to infected animal carcasses – house pets that may potentially be exposed in developed countries represent 'a very different risk scenario,' according to FVE in its recent press release⁷. Although dogs can seroconvert to Ebola virus, to date the virus has never been isolated from a dog. FVE therefore recommends dealing with such incidents 'on a case-by-case basis' by a

⁵ <http://www.fve.org/news/publications.php?item=235>

⁶ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/007_raw_milk_consumption_final.pdf

⁷ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/011_press_release_ebola.pdf

multi-disciplinary team applying science-based risk assessment.

Poultry meat

PAA decontamination: FVE calls for labelling

Following the adoption of the EFSA opinion on the use of peroxyacetic acid (PAA) for the decontamination of poultry carcasses⁸, FVE stresses that *'decontamination or any other equivalent 'treatment' of carcasses can never replace Good Hygiene Practices on farm and abattoir level, and should only be used under exceptional circumstances – and only after the inspection process has been completed.'*

In its position paper⁹, the FVE furthermore warns that a decontamination treatment may remove the normal competitive microflora, which could render the surface of the carcass susceptible to preferential growth of pathogens that may be already present or added by recontamination after treatment.

Finally, FVE calls for *'clear and unambiguous labelling of all meat subject-*

ed to decontamination' – whatever the process.

Food chain information

FVE proposes relevant, user-friendly FCI tool

The European Commission has started to draft a Regulation to define the minimum food chain information (FCI) requirements in all Member States. The FVE working group on food safety and quality and the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) have collaborated to work on a FCI template for pigs¹⁰. The two organisations agree that FCI is *'an essential tool'* to check whether animals are fit for human consumption. For this reason, FVE and UECVB stress that the FCI model:

- needs to be relevant for meat inspection, and enhance a risk-based approach
- must be simple and easy to fill in by farmers
- must address public health concerns but ideally also animal health and animal welfare issues
- should have an electronic form
- should be embraced by

all parties involved (farmers/practitioners, official veterinarian and slaughterhouses)

- must serve as common requirement not only for international trade but also at national level.

To achieve these goals, the FVE and UECVB have suggested a number of modifications to the proposed FCI template for pigs, in particular regarding relevance and user-friendliness of the tool. The template has been sent to the European Commission, the Permanent Representatives and other stakeholders.

The FVE WG on food safety and quality has also been working extensively on a guidance document for operators involved at all stages of the food chain, from the farm to the processing of the meat.

The guidance document will explain in detail the aim and steps of the FCI, and how all involved can best benefit from the collected data, such as inspection results and the relevant epidemiological indicators of livestock intended for slaughter.



⁸ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/002_decontamination_of_carcasses_peroxy_2014.pdf

⁹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/3599.htm>

¹⁰ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/5125_fci_uecbv_fve_final_0_8.pdf

Medicines

ESVAC

15% decline in antibiotic use

The fourth report of the European surveillance of veterinary antimicrobial consumption (ESVAC) has just been published¹¹. It contains the 2012 antibiotic sales of 26 European countries. Together, the countries cover about 95% of the food-producing animal population in the EU/EEA area. The report notes a 15% decline in antibiotic use between 2010 and 2012 – despite a stable PCU (population correction unit used in the ESVAC as a proxy for the size of the animal population) – while antibiotic use in humans increased the same period. The countries with the largest decrease were the Netherlands (-49%), France (-22%), Slovenia (-21%) and Italy (-20%). There were only two countries which observed a slight increase of use over that period, Bulgaria and Ireland (both +7%).

The main reasons given for the decline are campaigns on responsi-

ble use, changes in animal demographics, restrictions, increased awareness and setting targets. The sales (mg/PCU) of premixes accounted for 35.5% of the overall sales, while 33.7% were oral powders and 22.3% were oral solutions. Injectables accounted for 7.5%, while only 1.0% were intramammaries, oral pastes, bolus and intrauterine preparations.

The most widely used veterinary antimicrobials are tetracyclines (37%), penicillins (22%) and sulfonamides (10%). About 10% of all antimicrobials are critically important antibiotics, with a wide variation between countries: macrolides (0.04 to 17%, mean 8%), fluoroquinolones (1.2 to 11%, mean 1.7%) and 3th and 4th generation cephalosporins (0.01 to 1.2 %, mean 0.2%). Over recent years FVE and several of its members have put a lot of effort in the promotion of responsible use of antimicrobials. The Federation is proud on its contributions to containing antimicrobial resistance.

Veterinary medicines

Availability: national differences 'likely to remain'



C. Buhot, FVE President

Although the FVE welcomes the long-awaited European Commission's proposals for new legislation in the field of veterinary medicines and medicated feed¹², it is 'disappointed' that they do not include 'more significant steps' towards a single EU market for veterinary medicines.

The Commission's proposals, which were adopted in September, aim to improving the availability of veterinary medicines, but FVE believes the current situation with an EU divided into national markets will largely remain. 'Situations wherein the same medicine is allowed to be used in certain countries and not in others are likely to stay unchanged,' it says, adding that, especially in smaller countries, there is a risk that many products may remain unavailable.

Regardless of the principle that a product authorised in one country should be recognised by another, the real situation will still depend on the willingness of a company to apply for such recognition and the willingness of national authorities to accept product evaluations made by other Member States.



11 http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document_listing/document_listing_000302.jsp

12 http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/009_press_release_vmps_legislation.pdf

While appreciating the Commission's efforts to simplify marketing authorisation procedures and to promote the authorisation of products for minor uses and minor species, FVE president Christophe Buhot, commented: *'without a good range of medicines, veterinarians face great difficulties in solving animal health and welfare issues.'*

Regarding antimicrobial resistance, FVE agrees with many of the Commission's proposals to safeguard the efficacy of antimicrobials in both people and animals, adding that the provision that antimicrobials may only be prescribed for animals under the care of the prescriber, should apply to all prescriptions. *'No prescription should be made for animals that are not under the care of the prescribing veterinarian, the responsible and accountable gatekeeper,'* it says. FVE also welcomes proposals to regulate sales of veterinary medicines over the internet, but sees practical difficulties in putting these into practice. This is of particular importance for substances such as antibiotics, antiparasitics, anthelmintics and coccidiostats where irresponsible and uncontrollable use can lead to the development of resistance. The online selling of antimicrobials may furthermore disrupt the data collection of antimicrobial sales and lead to misleading evidence and false conclusions.

Finally, FVE regrets that veterinary diagnostics are not mentioned by the proposed Regulation. Yet fast and reliable diagnostics will facilitate correct diagnosis and help restrict the development of antimicrobial use. The Federation therefore underlines the need for a regulatory framework for veterinary diagnostics.

The proposals will be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council. Adoption and entry into force is foreseen in 2016-2017. New



legislation shall apply in all EU Member States two years later.

Fish medicines

FVE to set up task force

There is a *'significant lack'* of available medicines for the aquaculture sector in Europe, recalled Nancy De Briyne (FVE), during her presentation interested parties meeting of the Committee of Veterinary Medicinal Products on 22 September in Rome. Together with Andrea Fabris, an Italian Fish Veterinarian and member of the FVE Aquaculture working group, they suggested setting up multi-stakeholder coalition to explore and identify possible options to increase the availability of authorised aquatic veterinary medicinal products on the EU and EFTA market. This suggestion was welcomed by CVMP.

Although there is a huge growth potential for European aquaculture, development is hindered by a shortage of fish medicines. Also, there are practical difficulties in many Member States with the cascade for fish medicines and import permits. Furthermore, responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture is essential for public health, animal health and the environment, and all medicines for aquat-

ic animals should be issued only on veterinary prescription, after clinical examination and diagnosis.

Pig health

Zinc oxide: just like any other medicine

The FVE believes zinc oxide should be treated as any other veterinary drug: a marketing authorisation should only be given after passing all quality, safety and efficacy tests. Its use should be monitored and if the product is fully licensed, FVE strongly promotes a single European market.

The substance, widely used to prevent piglet diarrhoea, raises concern about environmental contamination and the contribution to zinc and antimicrobial resistance. While some European countries use it extensively, it is strictly forbidden in others, leading to an unfair market situation – especially when comparing data on the monitoring of antibiotic consumption in pigs

The FVE medicines working group has prepared a position paper, which is up for adoption at the upcoming FVE General Assembly.

EAAD 2014

ECDC to host antibiotic awareness day

'Everyone is responsible, everywhere' is the theme of this year's European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2014, which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 17 November, organised by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC). In the first session, representatives of various institutions, including the ECDC, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation, will provide data on the current situation and present their action plans. In the second session, FVE president Christophe Buhot and other stakeholder representatives will make short opening statements about the work their organisation are doing to support the efforts against antimicrobial resistance.

and the general public – to help raise awareness. Earlier this year, FVE published a joint leaflet with the CMPE and CED with advice on the responsible use of antibiotics in both people and animals.

accreditation from suppliers of companion animal medicine and pig medicine programme organisers.

Three companion animal medicine programmes have already been evaluated and approved: those proposed by the BSAVA in collaboration with Nottingham Trent university, by the Danish Small Animal Veterinary Association together with Copenhagen



Antimicrobial resistance

Advice to health professionals

Together with the European doctors (CPME) and dentists (CED), FVE has published a leaflet with advice for all health professionals on the responsible use of antibiotics¹³.

The document recalls that antibiotics are *'vital to treating and preventing the spread of disease in animals and humans'* but that the risk that the disease-causing bacteria will develop resistance to an antibiotic increases every time it is used.

In 2012 and 2013, FVE published a total of six leaflets on the responsible use of antimicrobials – for veterinary practitioners, policy makers, pet owners, farmers, horse owners

Education

VetCEE

Now accepting applications in pet and pig medicine

Providers of structured, professional development programmes for veterinary practitioners are invited to contact VetCEE (Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe) if they wish their programmes to be accredited.

Minimum European standards already exist at veterinary graduate and specialist level, but there is a lack of standards for the intermediate (middle-tier) level. VetCEE is developing minimum standards, and will evaluate programmes – both new and existing – that meet these standards. It is now accepting requests for

University and by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Lublin in Poland.

VetCEE is an independent organisation, created in collaboration with the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education.

Veterinary training

Evaluation system of 'crucial importance'

Veterinary specialists in aquaculture or in emergency and critical care now have their own European college. The European College of Aquatic Animal Health (ECCA) and the European College of Emergency & Critical Care (ECECC) were provisionally accepted by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) during its an-

¹³ <http://www.fve.org/news/publications.php?item=235>

Michael Day

Michael Day is Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Bristol, UK. He is a diagnostic pathologist and teaches immunology and pathology to veterinary students, while researching companion animal immune-mediated and infectious diseases. Michael is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Comparative Pathology. He is Senior Vice-President of the BSAVA and chairs the WSAVA One Health Committee and WSAVA Vaccination Guidelines Group. Michael is also Vice-President of the WSAVA Foundation and a member of the Project Board for the WSAVA African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN). He is a Trustee for the Mission Rabies Project and a member of the Petplan Charitable Trust Scientific Advisory Committee

1. Please explain your role and interest in the CALLISTO project

I am a member of the Management Board for the CALLISTO Project and specifically the Leader for Work Package III, which involves the co-ordination of the annual CALLISTO conferences and final editing of the annual CALLISTO reports. I represent the University of Bristol and the WSAVA as partners on the Board. In the final stages of CALLISTO we are also producing an open-access electronic supplement issue of the Journal of Comparative Pathology, which will showcase the outcomes from the project. I will co-ordinate and edit this supplement issue. CALLISTO fits perfectly with my interest in One Health.

2. How does CALLISTO interact with the work of the WSAVA One Health Committee?

The WSAVA One Health Committee (OHC) was established in 2010 with the mission of '*ensuring the prominence of the small companion animal-human interface in the global One Health agenda*'. The OHC works in the three related areas of (1) the human – com-

panion animal bond, (2) comparative and translational clinical research, and (3) zoonotic infectious diseases. In the latter area the committee has published a white paper on the need for surveillance of canine and feline zoonoses and has actively engaged with global canine rabies control, co-hosting a meeting with OIE in November 2013 at which a target date of 2030 was set for global canine rabies elimination. The focus of CALLISTO on companion animal zoonoses clearly overlaps with this activity of the OHC.

3. What are the three most important issues out of CALLISTO you will take home?



CALLISTO has clearly highlighted the current deficiencies in knowledge related to the importance of companion animal zoonoses in Europe. The project has defined the need for action, particularly with respect to surveillance, but also identified

the practical and financial challenges that will be encountered in addressing these issues. It has been a privilege to work with the wide group of expertise that has been built up within the CALLISTO network over the past 3 years.

nual general meeting, held in Brussels on 11 and 12 April. This brings the total number of Colleges to 25. An initiative to set up a European College of Veterinary Microbiology – including virology, bacteriology and mycology – was met favourably and a full proposal will be presented at the AGM next year.

The EBVS executive committee was re-elected unanimously for 2014-2015, consisting of Stephen May (ECVS) – president; Linda Horspool (ECVPT) – secretary; Mona Aleksandersen (ECVP) – treasurer; Dominiek Maes (ECPHM) – vice-president and Peter O'Brien (ECVCP) – past president.

FVE & professional matters

Statutory Bodies

Updating the principles of veterinary certification



According to its working group of veterinary statutory bodies, which met on 3 October, the FVE's '*10 principles of veterinary certification*' urgently needed updating. A veterinary certificate, is a formal declaration of a veterinarian, and plays an important role in the prevention and control of animal health and welfare and related public health issues. An update will be presented at the upcoming FVE general assembly.

The working group also discussed the implementation of the Directives on professional qualifications and on alternative dispute resolution and reviewed the FVE By-Laws.

Future focus

FVE prepares new strategy plan

In the past months, three regional strategic meetings have been organised by FVE (in Brussels, Rome and Visegrad) in order to receive input from all FVE members on what they want their federation to focus on in the coming five years. The main conclusions and recommendations of these 3 meetings will be presented at the November FVE GA in the form of a draft proposal for a new strategy plan. A final version is planned for the 2015 spring GA, which will take place on 5th and 6th of June in Iasi, Romania.

At the strategy meetings, FVE also presented its activity report for 2012-2014.

Veterinary demography

European survey: over 12,500 data collected

Over 12,500 responses from a total of 26 countries are currently being analysed for the survey of the demography of the veterinary profession in Europe. In December 2013, the FVE signed a contract with a UK consultancy company specialised in performing surveys of professional groups, and the web-based questionnaire for veterinarians (in 10 languages) was launched on 15 May.

Preliminary results of the survey, which includes data on education, work situation, economics and thoughts about the future, will be presented at the November general assembly, with a final report expected early 2015.

Reinforcing collaborations

OIE and FVE exchange Official Letters

In the past months, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the FVE exchanged official letters agreeing on the establishment of official relations between the two organisations. The letters state that the organisations should '*reinforce relations*' in particular in the areas of Good governance of veterinary services, veterinary education, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and '*One Health*'.

The OIE and FVE agree to '*act in collaboration and to consult each other in questions of mutual interest*', provide expertise, exchange information, and other possible collaboration, notably in order to develop international cooperation for animal health and welfare, food safety and the fight against zoonoses. The participation of FVE in the activities of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe is a good example of the good working relation between the two organisations.



21-22 November

FVE General assembly

The FVE will hold its upcoming general assembly in Brussels, on 21 and 22 November. During the meeting, two parallel workshops will be held, one on Wellness of the veterinary profession and one on the Revision of the European medicines legislation. Other topics to be discussed include animal health and welfare in aquaculture, veterinary education, veterinary demography, medicated feeds, veterinary certification, stray dogs, outcome of the strategy meetings, as well as a number of internal issues (finances, subscription fees and voting rights). As guest speaker, FVE has invited Ladislav Miko, Deputy Director General of DG Sanco.

The FVE Sections (practitioners, hygienists, state veterinary officers and veterinarians working in research, education or industry) will meet on 20 November. The spring general assembly is planned for 5-6 June 2015 in Iasi (Romania).

Miscellaneous

Elections

WVA elects new Council

The immediate Past President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), Dr Tjeerd Jorna, is delighted to announce the new WVA



Elect ed Council for the coming three year term (2014–2017). The WVA Elections 2014

were conducted via electronic voting system and the overall participation of the WVA members was very high. The new WVA Council will start its term in office on 30th November, i.e. the day after the next WVA general assembly meeting. The following candidates were elected as Officers and Councillors: René Carlson (USA) – president; Johnson Chiang (Taiwan) – president elect; Maria Baptista (Angola) and Oumar Tounkara (Mali) – councillors for Africa; John Drake (Canada), Lyle Vogel (USA) – councillors for North America; Maria Nelly Cajiao (Colombia) and Guilherme Costa (Brazil) – councillors for Latin America; Hur Juhung (Korea) and Achariya Sailasuta (Thailand) – councillors for Asia and Oceania; Zoran Katrinka (Serbia) and Rafael Laguens (Spain) – councillors for Europe; Farouk El-Dessouky (Egypt) and Khaled El Hicheri (Tunisia) – councillors for the Middle-East and North Africa; Sira Abdul Rahman (Commonwealth Veterinary Association) – councillor for international regional organisations and Patricia Turner (International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine, IACLAM) – councillor for inter-

national discipline-centred organisations.

FVE wholeheartedly thanks the outgoing council members, in particular past president Tjeerd Jorna and councillors Karel Daniel, Rainer Schneichel, Bob Stevenson and Walter Winding for their contributions to the WVA.

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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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