



# NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012

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## EDITORIAL

### Health Profession



Veterinary medicine is a health profession with a direct and substantial impact on public health.

We cannot stress this often enough, including in the FVE Strategy 2011-2015. However, many decision makers have a limited notion of health and in consequence of health professions: such term is often restricted to human doctors and nurses.

It may therefore be appropriate to recall that the veterinary profession has a long and distinguished history of contributing to the protection and promotion of public health – and that the World Health Organisation considers that *'the application of veterinary science can, and must, contribute to the physical, mental and social well being of humans.'*

The fields in which our profession plays an important role for public health are numerous and include the control of zoonoses (including emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases);

food safety; antimicrobial resistance; biomedical research; health education and extension; management of domestic and wild animal populations; protection of the environment; and social, behavioural and mental aspects of the human-animal bond (including animal-assisted therapy and animal welfare).

In view of these arguments, most will agree that the veterinarians are a health profession. However, many politicians and Commission officials seem reluctant to accept this. Perhaps we should remind them of one of the fundamental laws of the EU...

Indeed, Article 168 of Title XIV (Public Health) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union reads: *'the European Parliament and the Council (...) shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives (...) through adopting (...) measures in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields which have as their direct objective the protection of public health.'*

Raphael Laguens, FVE Board

# ANIMAL HEALTH

## FVE CONFERENCE

### Exotic animals across Europe

*"Import & keeping of exotic animals in EU: existing concerns and risks - current challenges to meet"* is the theme of a two-day conference held on 5 and 6 October, in Brussels. The event is organised by the FVE, with the support of



the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, the EU Commission and the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office. Aim of the conference is to exchange information on the ways exotic animals enter the EU market, to point out the risks for animal health and welfare and for public health and to identify critical points and propose sustainable solutions.

Speakers include H  l  ne Perier (Scientific Officer, DG Environment), Paul Koene (Department of Applied ethology, Wageningen Agricultural University), Neil Forbes (European specialist in avian medicine), Staci McLennan (Eurogroup for animals, policy officer wildlife), Els Vanautryve (Animal welfare division, Belgium federal services of public health), Thomas Jemmi and Matthias L  rtscher (Swiss Federal Veterinary Office).

The seminar will be followed by a Networking reception.

<http://www.fve.org/news/presentations.php>

## EU ANIMAL HEALTH LAW

### Role of vets needs to be clarified

Regarding the new EU Animal Health Law, FVE welcomes the Commission's initiative to bring the large body of EU animal health legislation in one single and clearer regulatory framework.

Looking at recently circulating draft text proposals, FVE warmly welcomes the added article on animal health visits requesting for operators to ensure that *"the establishments under their responsibility are visited by a veterinarian when appropriate due to the health risks to animal and public health posed by the establishment"*. FVE believes that a regular farm visit is one of the cornerstones of the 'prevention is better than cure' strategy, basis of the new law.

However, the FVE also raises a number of concerns. It feels the current text still does not recognise enough the advantageous role veterinarians - who are scientifically trained, knowledgeable, skilled and caring professionals - can play in the protecting animal health and welfare. FVE feels that the current text still does not give a clear vision on the role and responsibilities of the veterinary profession - including both public and private partners. Member states will only be able to assure the health of animals and to prevent and control animal diseases if a complete and well-functioning system for veterinary services is put in place. Principles of the system should be outlined in the Animal Health Law or refer to the standards laid down elsewhere, e.g. in the OIE terrestrial Code. The role of veterinarians and their responsibility regarding public health, official duties, training of operators and animal professionals should also be clearly defined, perhaps follow-

ing the FVE definition. Finally, more emphasis should also be put on One Health, according to FVE.

Many open questions remain which make it very difficult at this stage to form a fully developed opinion about the effectiveness of the new Animal Health Law. It is not yet clear on how it will be linked with the legislation on official controls, what all the secondary legislation will entail, how measures will be financed and which diseases will be listed.

The draft Animal Health Law is currently being discussed internally by the Commission; an official draft is expected early 2013.

## VETERINARY WEEK 2012

### The Economics of Animal Health

A conference entitled *'Economics of Animal Health: A price worth paying?'* will take place in Brussels on 3 October.





ber, on the occasion of this year's Veterinary Week<sup>1</sup>.

Topics include: The importance of animal health and its role in the economy; Animal health as a driver for development; Allocating resources for improved animal health; Trade versus risks; How to ensure reasonably priced livestock. The event will bring together vets, policy makers and senior experts of local, regional, national and international authorities.

Presentations will be broadcast live as a webstream the event live. Viewers can ask questions to the speakers via twitter and email.

There will also be a student seminar, held on 5 October, whereby the various institutions and organisations (DG Sanco, FVE, EFSA...) will introduce themselves and current topics will be presented, including emerging diseases and the Animal Health Law

## EP DRAFT REPORT

### Movement of pets: EP fails to call for I&D

A draft report on the proposed revision of the Regulation on the Non-commercial movement of pets was presented by Horst Schnellhardt (rapporteur), early September, at the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup.



<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/information\\_sources/ahw\\_events\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/information_sources/ahw_events_en.htm)

FVE welcomes the fact that, in his report, Dr Schnellhardt cautions against the risk that commercial movements may be disguised as non-commercial movements and has proposed an amendment. Indeed, the Commission proposal does not limit the number of animals that can be transported in a non-commercial movement.

However, FVE is disappointed that the rapporteur did not include a call for the compulsory permanent identification and registration of animals being moved between EU Member States – in particular since only last year, European Parliament had called for the compulsory identification and registration of dogs *'Effective and reliable systems of dog identification and 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'*, recalls Christophe Buhot, FVE President.

The European Commission published its proposal in March 2012 and the European Parliament is currently debating its content. The Parliament is expected to provide its final report by the end of the year. The new proposal<sup>2</sup> will repeal and replace Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals.

<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0089:FIN:EN:PDF>

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### NEW WORKSHOP IN ITALY

#### Practical farm animal welfare

A next workshop *'Improving animal welfare, a practical approach'* will be held on 27-28 November in Lazise (Garda Lake, Italy). It will be organised by FVE and DG Sanco, in co-operation with the Italian Ministry of Health,



the national federation of veterinary orders (FNOVI), Italian Ministry of Health, the Italian veterinary association (ANMVI) and the Italian society of preventive veterinary medicine (SIVEMEP).

The workshop aims to provide veterinarians with a deeper understanding of animal welfare, including species-specific welfare legislation and assessment schemes as well as the critical welfare issues. Day one includes presentations on *'Why should we care more about animal welfare'*, followed by four breakout sessions (poultry, cattle, pigs and wild animals kept in captivity). Day two consists of practical sessions in the field on a poultry farm, a cattle farm, a pig farm and a zoo, during which the Welfare Quality (WQ)<sup>3</sup> protocols to assess welfare will be demonstrated and practiced.

<sup>3</sup> Protocols available at <http://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/network/45627/9/0/40>

Presentations, photographs and videos of this conference and the previous ones, will be available online<sup>4</sup>.

Similar workshops were held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga (Latvia) and Sinai (Romania). Future workshops are planned in 2013 in the Netherlands and Poland. The workshop in Italy is mainly targeted at veterinary farm animal practitioners and official veterinarians from Italy, Austria, France, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia. Some places will be reserved for veterinary or animal health related students and producers. Registration will open mid-October<sup>5</sup>. For more information about the welfare quality protocols, please subscribe to the WQ newsletter<sup>6</sup>.

## WSPA

### Welfare education worldwide

The World Society for the Protection of Animals has produced a number of programmes designed for teachers, students and professionals. These include First Concepts in Animal Welfare<sup>7</sup>, an introductory-level education programme for schoolchildren in developing countries, and Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare training in the more complex animal welfare concepts.

This module has two main programmes: Agricultural vocational training and Tertiary animal welfare education. The latter targets university veterinary faculties and agriculture and livestock training institutes worldwide. It has a CD ROM syllabus,

developed with the University of Bristol's School of Clinical Veterinary Science, and can be accessed online.

*'The WSPA Concepts in Animal Welfare are very useful publicly available tools, comments the FVE. It is also an excellent example of collaboration between a veterinary teaching institution, the Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and an animal welfare organization.'* The Animal Welfare Syllabus is a valuable resource of information and users are invited to explore and enjoy its modules.

## VETERINARY EDUCATION

### FVE WG on animal welfare education: update

The FVE ad hoc working group on animal welfare education<sup>8</sup>, created early 2012, has a double remit: taking an inventory of animal welfare science, law and ethics taught in undergraduate education in the EU, and drafting a model animal welfare curriculum for undergraduate veterinary education. Several teleconferences have been held since its inaugural meeting in February. Regarding the model curriculum, a draft report is currently being circulated among the WG members. It will exist of 4 main parts: background paper, learning objectives, syllabus and teaching methods. A consultation will be done late 2012. the inventory of undergraduate education is also nearly finished, for which the WG works together with the AWARE project<sup>9</sup> (EU FP7).

The final report is expected to be ready for presentation at the spring



From the left: Vlatko Ilieski, Borut Zemljic, Dirk Neuhaus, Frauke Ohl, Manuel Sant'Ana, Linda Keeling, David Morton, Nancy De Briyne, Anna-Caroline Wöhr.

4 <http://www.onetec.be/animalwelfare/riga.html>

5 <http://www.onetec.be/animalwelfare/>

6 <http://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/network/44208/5/0/40>

7 <http://www.wspa-international.org/wspas-work/education/concepts-animal-welfare-modules.aspx>

8 Members: David Morton (UK – chair), Frauke Ohl, (Netherlands), Borut Zemljic (Slovenia), Dirk Neuhaus (Germany), Manuel Sant'Ana (Portugal), Anna-Caroline Wöhr (Germany), Denis Simonin (France, European Commission), Linda Keeling (Sweden), Vlatko Ilieski (FYROM) and Nancy De Briyne (FVE Office).

9 <http://www.aware-welfare.eu/aware>

FVE General Assembly in Maribor (Slovenia). For more information on this project, you can contact FVE<sup>10</sup>.

## SLAUGHTER ANIMALS

### Study on welfare during slaughter and labelling

A study on information provision regarding animal welfare during slaughter is carried out by Sarah Pesie, Animal Sciences student at Wageningen University (Netherlands) and current FVE intern. The focus of this research is on conventional slaughter and slaughter without stunning, and to understand the consumer requests and debate on this subject in different European countries. The aim is to increase transparency and traceability of animal welfare during slaughter.

For her study, she will interview stakeholders about their position and expectations for the future. Meanwhile, a consumer questionnaire is available online to identify consumer interests in animal welfare and slaughter methods<sup>11</sup>.

Readers are invited to distribute the consumer questionnaire, available in five languages. It is anonymous and only takes 5 minutes to complete.

#### English

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=its77vf3cbz648190800>

#### Netherlands

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=dmeg4ym3lv9hvu992817>

#### French

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=vnofykq1xfy5ixx93357>

#### Czech

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=qy2eiaby7h2yps293849>

#### Greek

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=5n3wb2gebmc8kx193852>

#### German

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/s.asp?sid=wdz33hzdkcqfyzp9336>

## BOAR TAIN

### Alternatives to surgical pig castration: website

The European Partnership on Pig Castration was formed to develop methods to phase out the surgical castration of



pigs by 2018, and to make sure that costs of transition are shared in a fair way. FVE is signatory of the Declaration on pig castration and member of the Partnership's core group. The partnership now has its own website, called Alternatives for pig castration<sup>12</sup>.

With changing social values, many consumers have called for pigs to be treated with less painful and invasive practices. In response to these growing concerns, several main players within the pig and pork industry have agreed to a plan to voluntarily end the practice of surgically castrating pigs in the EU by 1 January 2018. A meeting called Alternatives to surgical castration of pigs: Main Actions of the European Partnership - organised by the European Commission will be held on 17 December

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.alternativepig.eu/home.html>

## PUBLIC HEALTH

## CALLISTO

### EU Zoonoses project terminates first cycle

The first cycle of the CALLISTO project<sup>13</sup> – with a focus on the current situation and knowledge gaps of companion animal zoonoses – is drawing to an end. While the chairs of the Expert Advisory Groups are finalizing their reports, the last preparations are being made for the first CALLISTO conference will take place in Brussels on 24, 25 and 26 October. All experts of the Advisory groups have been invited to this closed meeting as well as a number of experts from outside the CALLISTO network. In order to achieve a high level of 'cross fertilization' between the different disciplines and professions the conference will work with Dahlem-like workshops: small, simultaneous sessions with participants from different disciplines and professions. During these sessions certain predefined questions will be discussed of which the answers

will be fed into the CALLISTO strategy report.

CALLISTO is organised in three main cycles of 12 months each: Cycle I over-



view of the current situation and crucial knowledge gaps; Cycle II linking the findings to risk assessments; Cycle III recommendations and identification of priority areas for actions.

<sup>13</sup> Companion animals multisectorial interprofessional and interdisciplinary strategic think tank on zoonoses, see [www.callistoproject.eu](http://www.callistoproject.eu)

<sup>10</sup> For WG on model Animal Welfare Curriculum, contact [nancy@fve.org](mailto:nancy@fve.org)

<sup>11</sup> For further information, please contact [sarah-pesie@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah-pesie@hotmail.com)



## FOOD HYGIENE WG

### Focus on meat inspection

The FVE Food Hygiene working group will next meet on the 16 October in Brussels. On the agenda: the modernisation of meat inspection. EFSA<sup>14</sup> has published several opinions on meat inspection procedures and provided advice on inspecting the meat of various animal species for tuberculosis and the *Trichinella*, *Cysticercus* and *Echinococcus* parasites. The opinions on bovine animals,

for change has been championed by recognised authorities in meat hygiene worldwide. However, it is essential that any alterations to the existing systems are based on sound scientific principles of meat hygiene and risk analysis, and not unduly influenced by political pressures from vested interests, or to defend their positions and the status quo. Food safety is of paramount importance.

It is clear to the FVE that such a change must be gradual in order not to undermine consumer confidence and that the rate of change will vary among member states and regions due to a variation in establishment types and activity.

For a number of reasons, including socio-economic factors, there is not one global answer to modernisation. Each Member State, compartment or region, may have its own way to deliver the equivalent 'food safety objective'. However, in all cases, the following basic principles should apply for a Modernised Meat Inspection System:

domestic sheep and goats, farmed game and domestic solipeds are expected by the summer of 2013.

The EU Commission will now progress to drafting a legislative proposal on the review of meat inspection, taking into consideration the EFSA opinions, the conclusion of a number of round table conferences with stakeholders, the outcome of a number of questionnaires completed by stakeholders and Competent Authorities and the results of the official Commission evaluation of the new food hygiene legislation.

Over the last thirty years it has become apparent that the procedures, which have served public and animal health well for over a century, are in need of a radical overhaul. The need

14 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/meatinspection.htm>

## MEDICINES

### ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

#### FVE leaflets on the responsible use of antibiotics



The FVE has published two short, easy-to-read leaflets on the responsible use of antimicrobials: How to use antimicrobials responsibly: advice for veterinarians<sup>15</sup>, aimed at veterinary practitioners, and How we can safeguard antimicrobials now and for the future, aimed at animal owners and policymakers<sup>16</sup>. Two further leaflets are in the pipeline for 2013, one for pet owners and one for farmers.

*'To assure the health and welfare of people and animals, now and in the future, it is imperative that we safeguard the efficacy of antimicrobials,'* stresses Christophe Buhot, FVE president. *'This can only be achieved if everyone involved in human and animal health joins forces, including*

15 [http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve\\_antimicrobials\\_a3\\_hr03.pdf](http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve_antimicrobials_a3_hr03.pdf)

16 [http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve\\_antimicrobials\\_a4\\_hr](http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve_antimicrobials_a4_hr)

veterinarians, animal owners, medical doctors, patients and policymakers. To keep people and animals safe, we need to raise general awareness of this important issue.'

## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (2)

### Council calls for veterinary prescription of antibiotics

Conclusions<sup>17</sup> of the Presidency Conference on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) were officially adopted by EU Health ministers at the Council meeting of 22 June<sup>18</sup>. FVE warmly welcomes the conclusions, which were adjusted following earlier concerns voiced by the veterinary profession – including the FVE, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and many Chief Veterinary Officers.

*'For the FVE, this is an enormous step forward in combating antimicrobial resistance,' comments Dr Christophe Buhot, FVE president. 'The current conclusions give a much more balanced view, taking into account all aspects of antimicrobial resistance, and I am delighted FVE's concerns have been taken on board. Antimicrobial resistance is a complex issue for which there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution such as 'decoupling' of prescription and dispensing, but which requires rigorous action from all players and at multiple levels. It is a true One Health matter.'*

FVE is pleased that the conclusions take into consideration many of its own recommendations, including that:

- prescription of veterinary antibiotics should only be carried out by a veterinarian

- susceptibility testing should be part of diagnosis, allowing a correct treatment choice

- there is a need to increase awareness about the risk of AMR in the general public and in the human and animal health sectors

- Member States should enforce legislation to prevent illegal sales of antimicrobials, in particular over the Internet

- Member States should encourage incentives for improved animal health and hygiene, e.g. through farm visitation programmes

*'These recommendations clearly strengthen the position of the veterinary practitioner as 'gatekeeper' of antimicrobial use in animals,' concludes Dr Buhot.*



## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (3)

### FVE comments on MEP draft report and opinion

FVE has welcomed the draft report *'Microbial Challenge – rising threats from Antimicrobial resistance'*<sup>19</sup>, by

Anna Rosbach MEP, rapporteur of the ENVI Committee report on the Commission communication regarding antimicrobial resistance. FVE has suggested a number of amendments to the report in a recent briefing note. These include:

- the need for improved farmer-vet communication, such as through herd health plans, for the continuous improvement of animal health and welfare including the prevention of diseases and enhancement of hygiene measures;

- a call to enforce legislation preventing all illegal sales of antimicrobials including illegal sales over the Internet, in both the human health sector and the veterinary sector.

- the need of a true single market for medicinal products, to ensure the availability and accessibility of these products throughout the EU and to reduce the need for off-label use of medicines.

In reaction to the above report, Martin Häusling MEP from the AGRI committee<sup>20</sup> published a draft opinion, in which he calls for the phasing out of all systematic prophylactic, metaphylactic

and subtherapeutic use of antimicrobials. FVE would like to stress that antimicrobials should be prescribed only after a proper examination and diagnosis, including sensitivity testing.

In his draft opinion, Mr Häusling also proposes a target of halving the antimicrobial use in the EU by 2018. Commenting on this, the FVE recalls

17 Draft conclusions: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st10/st10347.en12.pdf>

18 Webcast: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/webcast.aspx?ticket=775-979-11466>

19 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&reference=PE-486.077&format=PDF&language=EN&secondRef=01>

20 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-496.440%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>



that 'Simply reducing the quantity of antimicrobials used is not the miracle solution to prevent antimicrobial resistance. As important is the type of antimicrobials used and the way they are used. Antimicrobials should never replace good husbandry, bio-security, stockmanship and management practices. Farmers can reduce animal diseases and so the need to use antibiotics by drawing up an effective health plan together with their veterinarian.'

## FVE MEDICINES WG

### Anthelmintic resistance, generics and internet sales

Anthelmintic resistance is a growing problem, especially in sheep, goats and horses and in certain areas, recalled Edwin Claerebout (Ghent University), speaking at the 4 September meeting of the FVE Medicines working group (MWG). Compared to antimicrobial resistance, the public health impact is more limited. Anthelmintic resistance is difficult to detect and there are fewer products available than in the antimicrobial class. Dr Claerebout recommended persuading farmers to use substances in a more targeted strategic way instead of mass treatments. Although monitoring of resistance is useful, the resistance detection system should first be optimised. Veterinarians have a role in promoting the monitoring of sensitivity and responsible use of antiparasitics, MWG concluded. In order to control the use of anthelmintics, all anthelmintics for food producing animals should be on veterinary prescription.

The use of generics was also discussed at the meeting. Although these products had many economic advantages, their lower cost could also lead to increased use. The MWG concluded

that there were both advantages and disadvantages, and the most important point was that they should be used responsibly.

Regarding the internet sales of veterinary medicines, Peter Jones (UK) reported on the UK experience, whereby internet retailers of veterinary medicines can apply for accreditation under the VMD 'Accredited Internet Retailer Scheme'. Retailers who meet the criteria may carry a special logo on their website. So far, the system is voluntary. The EU Commission is currently looking into mechanism for an improved control of internet sales into the new Medicines Leg-



islation. Regarding illegal sales of veterinary medicines, there is very little data available, and veterinarians are strongly urged to report any proof of illegal sales.

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES

### Gwyn Jones EPRUMA new Chair



Gwyn Jones, vice-chair of the working party of Copacogeca on animal health and welfare, and former vice-

President of the National Farmers' Union (UK), will become Chair of the European Platform of the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA), from January 2013, for a three-year mandate. EPRUMA has a rotating chair, and the FVE is next in line to preside the platform.



EPRUMA also published a poster highlighting the role of veterinarians, farmers, pet owners and pharmacists in ensuring responsible use. The document also mentions the benefits of responsible use for the food chain and society at large. It has also produced a leaflet presenting the objectives and activities of the platform. For more information, see [www.epruma.org](http://www.epruma.org)



# EDUCATION

## FVE-EAEVE TASK FORCE

### Updating Minimum training requirements and Day 1 skills

A joint task force has been set up by the FVE and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) to prepare for the



legislative proposal of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (Dir 2005/36/EC)<sup>21</sup>.

In particular, the minimum training requirements for veterinarians and Day-one competences will need to be updated (Article 38 and Annex V.4.1 of the proposal). Members of the task force include Karin Ostensson (FVE Vice President and chair), Manuel Sant'Ana, Stephen Ware, Borut Zemljic, Rémi Gellé, Ana Bravo, Hans-Henrik Dietz and Laszlo Fodor with contributions from Gert Niebauer.

The proposal was released by the European Commission in December 2011 and is now under study by the European Parliament and the Council. The 1st draft report by the EP has been published in July 2012<sup>22</sup>. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether the amendments will be adopted through a "Delegated Acts" or via the Co-decision procedure.

# FVE & PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

## BRUSSELS GA

### 15-16 November: FVE general assembly

The next meeting of the FVE General Assembly will be held on 16 and 17 November in Brussels. The FVE sections (practitioners; hygienists; state veterinary officers; and veterinarians in industry, research and education) will hold their meetings on 15 November.

Three simultaneous workshops will be held: Modernisation of meat inspection, the veterinary workforce now and in the future and effectiveness of guidelines for responsible use. An update will be provided by Commission officials on the new Animal Health Law. Guest speakers include Professor Anton Pijpers (Utrecht University), Alberto Laddomada (DG Sanco) and Catherine Magras (Nantes University).

For further information, please contact the FVE Office.



<sup>21</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&procnum=COD/2011/0435#keyPlayers>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE494.470>

# 3 Questions for.....

## KARIN SCHWABENBAUER

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer is the German Chief Veterinary Officer. Last May she was elected as President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Council of the World Organisation for animal Health (OIE).

### 1. What do you see as the most important challenges for the veterinary profession at global level?

First, livestock production is facing huge challenges worldwide, such as the emergence of novel disease, including zoonoses, but also poor productivity of livestock, linked inter alia to growing urban population, globalization, and climate change.

This means that veterinary services are more than ever of paramount importance for livestock keepers. Secondly animal welfare in livestock and pet animals is worldwide increasingly on the societal agenda. And thirdly ensuring food safety, in a world where food chains are getting longer and longer, is key to prevent food crises worldwide.

In all these fields veterinarians play a decisive role: they are the experts for animal health and animal welfare, they have the expertise to prevent foodborne diseases along the food chain, from farm to fork. This means that veterinarians have an increasing responsibility: as practitioner in farm and pet animals, or as official veterinarians or in the food and pharmaceutical industry.

In this context, I believe the most important challenges for the veterinarian profession worldwide are:

In this context, I believe the most important challenges for the veterinarian profession worldwide are:

- ensuring good quality services based on a high quality education and continuous training;
- being open minded about how to solve problems along the food chain, not forgetting the pets and their owners;
- being present in the public domain as competent advisers to animal owners, consumers and industry.



### Q2 -Which opportunities do you see for the future of our profession?

In the context described above our profession has many opportunities in different fields beyond the veterinarian practice. WE have an important role to play when it comes to consumer protection, preventing hunger, controlling zoonoses, among other tasks.

But when there are many opportunities, usually there are also risks to consider! The most important risk for our profession is complacency! Although veterinarians have the best qualifications to deal with many of the challenges ahead, we should not take it as granted!

We have to be open minded, listening to our customers and accepting that there are things we are not so

that there are things we are not so good at! The challenges we are facing should be considered in a multidisciplinary approaches. As long as we can rely on our competence in all aspects of veterinary medicine, we don't have to worry about working in a team with other experts.

### 3. What come number one on the list of goals you wish to achieve during your mandate?

The main topics I would like to work at as elected President of the OIE are the following:

- modernization of the OIE;
- ensuring transparency of animal health status worldwide and of the procedures;
- solidarity between the different regions of the OIE
- promoting a fair share for women within the OIE.

My number one is the last mentioned: our profession attracts many female students, and many women have taken responsibility in many places. But they are still a minority when it comes to be Delegate to the OIE World Assembly or even Member in the different Specialized Commissions and Working Groups.

I will try my best to help women to become more involved in our organization – for its benefits. I am convinced that diversity is key for a sustainable success of International Organizations, and gender is undoubtedly part of this diversity!



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### FVE members met in Amsterdam

*'These are challenging times for the veterinary profession', confirmed Ludo Hellebrekers, president of the*



Chris Donswijk and Ludo Hellebrekers

Royal Dutch Veterinary Society (KNMvD), which celebrated its 150th anniversary. Speaking at the General Assembly of the FVE in Amsterdam on 8 and 9 June, he continued on a more optimistic note. In the Netherlands, recent developments have strengthened the role of the veterinarian, he said, referring to the recent legislation on veterinary medicines which required a signed agreement of a one-on-one relationship between farmer and vet, a herd health plan, a treatment plan and regular farm visits for the farmer to be allowed to keep and administer antibiotics. Veterinarians would also have the obligation to inform authorities if any medication was found on-farm that had not been dispensed by them. Professor Hellebrekers also informed the assembly of a recently introduced two-year coaching system for new graduates and a national One-health competition. But whatever the theme – antimicrobial resistance, zoonoses, the role of the veterinarian in society

*– 'they must all be addressed at EU level, as we need to do it together'.*

*'We share the same focus' stressed the Dutch CVO Christianne Bruschke in her address to the FVE General Assembly, 'even though things have changed since I spoke to you five years ago. Animal welfare topics are now more*

*prominent than ever – in the Netherlands, we even have a political party for animals with two seats in Parliament – but there also is an increased concern for animal health and its relation to public health.'*

When asked about the new rules on veterinary medicines in the Netherlands, she explained that these included the possibility of individual decoupling of prescription and dispensing of veterinary medicines as a possible sanction for *'veterinary practitioners who did not stick to the rules'*. We must be strict in these matters, she added, in view of the high population and animal density in our country.

Nancy De Briyne (FVE Deputy executive director) and Chris Donswijk (FVE intern) presented the results of an on-line survey on veterinary prescription habits. The survey, a joint initiative by the Heads of medicines agencies (HMA-V) and FVE, had yielded 3,017 responses from 25 countries.

The first reports on factors influencing

prescription behaviour and sensitivity testing will be published by end 2012.

*'Are we acting responsibly or are we entering a post-antibiotic era? The threat is real', warned Peter Jones (UK), member of the FVE medicines working group (MWG). 'If we are denied the ability to dispense antibiotics, this would be a complete undermining of our capacity as veterinary professionals.'* There is no doubt that the use of new and critically important antimicrobials must be controlled, he said, adding that the animal health industry should promote prudent use, preferably in a *'predictable regulatory environment'*. In order to show the FVE's *'leadership role and engagement'* in the field of antimicrobial resistance, the MWG had drafted two leaflets – one for practitioners, one for policy makers – on the prudent use of antimicrobials (see page 6). *'The cascade is a gift and also our safety net, we should not abuse it', he concluded.*

In Amsterdam, past president Walter Winding became the fifth and last FVE honorary member. The assembly voted to discontinue this accolade and replaced it by the FVE award – of which Gundega Micule (Latvia) became the first recipient in Amsterdam – and the FVE Distinguished Services award. A farewell gift was also presented to Christine Arosenius (Sweden), who was congratulated on her input and dedication to the European cause over the years.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## TAIEX

### Croatia: Workshop on aquaculture

EU requirements for aquaculture production, fish safety, fish health and welfare and the use of medicines are the theme of the TAIEX workshop to be held in Croatia. The event is supported by the Veterinary Directorate of the Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, the Croatian Veterinary Chamber and the FVE.

The event is mainly targeted at veterinary inspectors, official veterinarians and authorized veterinarians, experts from reference and official laboratories, competent authorities and aquaculture producers from Croatia and neighbouring countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Croatia is expected to become an EU member by 1 July 2013, and is therefore committed to harmonise its legislation with the *acquis communautaire*.

## FEEVA

### 28-29 November: Meeting in Vienna

The next FEEVA Board meeting will be held at the Veterinary Chamber in Vienna, Austria on 28 November. The meeting includes a presentation on disease surveillance and biosecurity for horses during the London Olympics, an update on the European Horse network, VetCEE and Calisto. The annual FEEVA meeting will be held on 29 November, organised this year by the Austrian Equine Vet-

erinary Association (VÖP)<sup>23</sup>. Theme of the event is the geriatric horse.

On 10 July, a lunch meeting was held at the European Parliament by European Horse Network. Participants were key members of EHN and an unofficial parliamentary 'horse group' with eight MEPs, lead by Julie Girling. See more at the European Horse Network website<sup>24</sup>. A new lunch meeting between the MEP group and the EHN is scheduled for 27 November where Josh Slater, FEEVA president will talk about infectious diseases and Jan Vaarten about availability of medicines.

## WVA

### Zeev Noga, new Policy officer for WVA

The World Veterinary Association is happy to announce the appointment of Zeev Noga as its new full-time policy officer fully. Zeev has a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Milan and previously worked as veterinary advisor for the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV) for several years, dealing with many different, international veterinary issues.

Zeev joined the Brussels office in September and is currently following the organization of the WVA Veterinary Education conference entitled "*Veterinary education for the future generation*" which will take place in Bangkok, Thailand in 2-4 May 2013.

Zeev will of course also assist with preparations of the 31st World Veterinary Congress to be held in Prague (Czech Republic), from 17 to 20 September 2013, when the WVA will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

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24 [www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu](http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu)