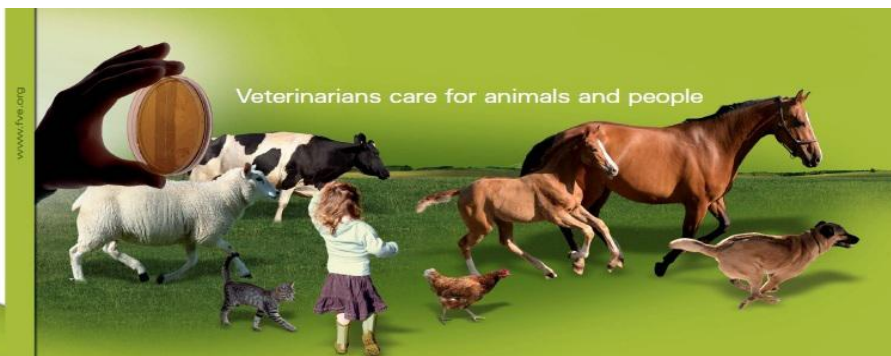




Federation  
of Veterinarians  
of Europe



Newsletter March 2015



Collaboration

### **FVE and OIE strengthen collaboration**

On 13 January FVE President Christophe Buhot and Director-General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Bernard Vallat signed an agreement for a closer collaboration between the two organisations. The organisations had exchanged Official Letters determining the basis for their relation and identifying five areas for further collaboration: good governance of veterinary services, veterinary education, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, and 'One Health'. Read the OIE [press release](#).



New Commissioner DG Health & Food Safety

### **Mr. Andriukaitis invites FVE**

Healthy and active citizens eating safe and wholesome food is one of the priorities for Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

FVE director Jan Vaarten presented the Federation and its goals and activities. He underlined that the veterinary profession has taken several initiatives to combat antimicrobial resistance. Veterinarians are part of the solution, he said. He also commented on the Commission proposal for a new regulation for veterinary medicines. FVE will meet very soon the Commissioner Mr. Andriukaitis in a bilateral meeting.



FVE/EC/Bulgarian Animal welfare workshop

## Registrations over 180!

On 25-26 March, the Stara Zagora Faculty of Veterinary Medicine will host a workshop aiming to ‘provide veterinarians with a deeper understanding of animal welfare’. The workshop consists of four sessions – cattle, pigs, horses and zoo animals – each with a theoretical and practical part, including the use of welfare assessment tools in practice. The meeting is organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the FVE. All presentations will be available on the website of the European Commission.

Similar workshops have been held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga (Latvia), Sinaii (Romania), Lasize (Italy), Zeist (Netherlands), Warsaw (Poland) and Lyon (France). So far, over 1,300 veterinarians from more than 27 countries have attended these workshops. Read [more](#)



FVE explains pet travel rules

## Q&A translated in 24 languages

On 29 December 2014, the legislation on pet travel rules and pet passports for travelling inside or outside the EU changed. FVE prepared an explanatory Questions & Answers document, in collaboration with the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) and the European Commission. The document is available on the FVE website in over 20 European languages. Read [more](#)

Stimulating biosecurity on farm

## FVE attends DG AGRI biosecurity conference

‘Biosecurity at farm level: challenges for innovation’ was the topic of a 2-day interactive EIP-AGRI workshop organised on 22-23 January by the European Commission’s DG AGRI. The workshop aimed to contribute to innovation for ‘on-farm biosecurity’ in the production of poultry, ruminants and pigs. It aimed to identify biosecurity measures, motivators and obstacles and research needs. Read [more](#)

Animal welfare

## FVE working group drafts action plan

During its 19 November meeting, the FVE/UEVP animal welfare working group discussed its Action plan for 2015-2016, and identified a total of 14 priority actions. For 2015, these include developing a vision on the role of the European veterinary profession in the sustainable keeping of animals, developing ethical welfare concepts, animal-based indicators for welfare on farms and during slaughter, puppy farms, pig welfare and travelling circuses. The working group will hold its next meeting on 2-3 March. Read [more](#)

Composition of the AW Group: Lotta Berg (Chair), Thomas Blaha, Roberto Bardini, Fabien Loup, David McKervey, Borut Zemljic, Ben Mayes and Monique Megens.

Food chain information

## FVE develops FCI template for pigs

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) worked on a FCI template for pigs together. The two organisations agree that FCI is ‘an essential tool’ to check whether animals are fit for human consumption.

In December, representatives of the FVE and the UECBV met with officials from the European Commission’s DG Sanco to discuss the template. At that occasion, the veterinary and livestock representatives stressed that, to be efficient, ‘FCI must remain simple for farmers to fill it in and it must bring added value for the post-mortem inspection.’ Each party involved (farmers/practitioners, official vets and slaughterhouses) ‘should be able to see the benefits of the system and use the information in a valuable way,’ they underlined. Ideally, electronic communication of the FCI should be available, and if so, this should be clearly mentioned, they added. The food safety WG has now finalized the FCI guidance document, which will be soon available for consultation among FVE members.

Ask more to [Francesco@fve.org](mailto:Francesco@fve.org)

FVE calls for attention to animals and public health in disasters

## Registration open

On 16-17 April, a conference will be held on natural disaster management through a One Health approach. The conference is organised by the FVE in association with the Latvian Presidency and with the participation of the European Commission. Natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes or extreme climate outbreaks, severely challenge the health and welfare of people, animals and the ecosystem; individually and collectively. The conference emphasizes the need for a holistic approach in disaster management by taking into consideration the human / animal / ecosystem interfaces. Read [more](#)



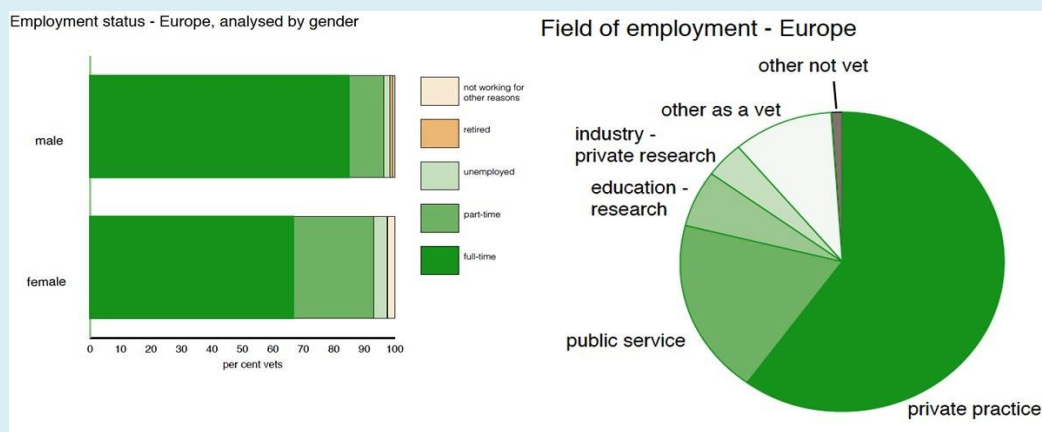
Veterinary medicines and medicated feed proposals

## Letting the veterinary voice be heard

After the publication of the Commission’s proposals on veterinary medicines and medicated feed in September 2014, the European Parliament and Council started its work early 2015. The European Parliament, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee is the leading committee for the veterinary medicines proposal with Ms. Françoise Grossetête (EPP, France) as Rapporteur. In respect to the medicated feed proposal, the Agriculture Committee is responsible. The Rapporteur for this file will be Norbert Lins (EPP, Germany).

The European Parliament expects to vote in Committee level on both proposals before summer and plenary vote after summer. In the Council under the Latvian presidency, Member States started planning meetings to examining the two texts at technical level. The Council expects to reach agreement during the Luxembourg Presidency. At the end of 2014, FVE agreed on its briefing papers in respect to both proposals.

FVE already met numerous Rapporteurs, shadow Rapporteurs and other key MEP’s involved with these dossiers and is in close contact with member states experts in charge of the files. In November 2014 at the European Antibiotic Awareness Day in Stockholm FVE President Christophe Buhot (in the picture) declared that *"much has been done on antimicrobial resistance by vets throughout Europe, and most without any incentive or regulatory measures, just on a voluntary basis. This shows the active and responsible commitment and involvement of vets"*.



Survey of the Veterinary Profession in Europe

## Women vets earn 28% less than their male colleagues

In the coming weeks FVE will publish the report of a survey establishing bench-marking statistics for the profession pertaining to demographic, work market and financial indicators. Information was collected from 26 member countries with more than 13,000 veterinarians completing a questionnaire.

The survey shows that the vast majority (60%) of vets work in clinical practice and predominantly small animal clinical practice. The second most popular sector is public service (19%), education and research (6%) and industry and private research (4%).

The male/female ratio is approximately 50:50, with a much higher proportion of women amongst veterinarians under 40, indicating an upcoming change in the gender distribution. Women were found being paid considerably less, on average 28%, than their male colleagues. This may be due to the fact that women take a 'family break', work on a more part-time basis (26% versus only 12% of male colleagues) or possibly predominate in certain areas of the profession, which traditionally have attracted lower rates of remuneration. Another interesting finding is that by far the greater proportion of practice revenue is derived from professional non-commercial activities.

The survey also highlighted a lack of understanding of the importance of core business, legal and financial matters and skills, and the need for the profession to improve its use and uptake of modern IT based marketing and merchandising techniques.





Veterinary under-graduate education

## **FVE calls for evaluation of veterinary education “to be compulsory”**

“A minimum standard for undergraduate veterinary education has to be compulsory, as well as a mechanism for the evaluation and validation of veterinary training,” recalls the recent position paper of the European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT). The paper highlights the need for quality-assurance in veterinary education, as a tool to enhance the confidence of the citizens of the European Union in each other’s educational systems and consequently in the quality of veterinary degrees. It also provides details of the current European System for the Evaluation of Veterinary Training, which has been functioning well for the past 30 years, but which lacks legal recognition.

The ECCVT calls upon legislators “to act on the responsibility to recognise the standard and the tool provided by the veterinary profession in the EU legislation.” Read [more](#)



3 Questions for

### **Bernhard Url**

In October 2014 the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has appointed Bernhard Url as the Authority’s Acting Executive Director. Dr. Url was for nearly 10 years the Managing Director of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), where he dealt with a wide range of food safety-related areas and ensured effective operations and risk communications in times of crisis.

#### **1. Why should every veterinarian in the EU know EFSA?**

Animal health is a key part of our mandate and we work on a large number of topics that are directly relevant to the veterinary profession. For example, in the last year alone our risk assessments have covered animal diseases such as avian influenza, bovine tuberculosis, Schmallerberg virus, canine leishmaniasis and African swine fever, to name only a few.

Animal welfare also features prominently in our work programme, based on the understanding that the safety of the food chain is indirectly affected by the welfare of animals, particularly those farmed for food production. In fact, many of the areas we provide advice on will be familiar to veterinarians and inspectors working in the field, including stunning and slaughter methods, castration, and transport conditions.

EFSA is heavily involved in the EU’s efforts to combat the threat of antimicrobial resistance across the food chain, from animals to humans. We collect and analyse data provided by Member States to provide an annual report on the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in specific animals’ populations in the EU. This information helps to inform the decisions that EU and national authorities take to reduce risks from antimicrobial resistance. It’s also worth pointing out that veterinarians are directly involved in EFSA’s

work, either as external experts on the Authority’s scientific Panels or – as in my case – as staff members.

#### **2. What priorities for EFSA do you see for the next years?**

From a strategic perspective, we have set ourselves three clear goals to guide our work in the coming years. The first is to ensure that the scientific advice we provide is as clear and useful as possible. This is crucial because EU- and national-level legislators rely on EFSA’s advice to put in place the laws that protect us from food-related risks. Secondly, we want to step up co-operation with our European and

international scientific partners. It is only by doing this that we will be able to address the highly complex, multifactorial scientific problems and emerging risks that we are faced with in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And finally, we want to transform to an open science organisation so that society at large understands and feels engaged in what we do. In this way, we aim to increase trust in the advice we give and, ultimately, in the EU food safety system itself.

If we're speaking specifically about animal health issues, I think a key focus for EFSA will be on unexpected events of vector- and non-vector borne diseases. In recent years, we have seen cases of transboundary animal diseases in the EU that have challenged conventional scientific wisdom and caused us to question how we assess related risks. I'm thinking, for example, about outbreaks of African swine fever in the Baltic States in 2014 or cases of sheep and goat pox that we know exist on the EU's south-eastern borders. Do we fully understand the drivers of such events and, if we do, how well prepared are we in the EU to deal with them? These are questions that EFSA has begun to address already and which are likely to be ever present in the coming years.

### **3. What contributions can the veterinary profession as a stakeholder give to develop policies in the frame of risk assessment?**

It is widely known that healthy animals are a source of safe food and that the prevention of diseases in humans often starts with the prevention and control of animal disease. Veterinarians play a key role in this respect and it is therefore important for EFSA that the expertise and insights of the veterinary profession are captured in our risk assessments. EFSA is fortunate in that it has already established a strong relationship with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe. We have co-operated in the past in the context of EFSA's advice on meat inspection and also held webinars together on the role of veterinarians in animal welfare. We will be presenting at this year's World Veterinary Congress in Istanbul which should provide another opportunity for FVE members to strengthen ties with our staff and experts. Beyond that, I would invite those interested to be involved in EFSA's work to keep an eye on our website for opportunities to join our Scientific Panels or Units

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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Acknowledgements photos: Fran Proscia

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