



Briefing Note

**Recognition of Professional
Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC**

Members

Austria
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
FYROM
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom

Observers

Albania
Ukraine

Sections

UEVP
Practitioners

EASVO
State Officers

UEVH
Hygienists

EVERI
Veterinarians in
Education, Research
and Industry

1. FVE is an umbrella organisation representing national veterinary organisations in all countries of the European Union and the EEA as well as pan-European groups of practitioners, state veterinary officers, veterinary hygienists and veterinarians working in industry and research.
2. FVE is firmly committed to the principle of freedom of movement for professionals and for service providers throughout the European Union.
3. The veterinary profession keeps promoting high quality services. In this perspective, the issue of the veterinarians' education, as addressed in the framework of the modernization of the 2005/36/EC Directive, is critical. Therefore, the FVE is of the view that access to the veterinary profession can only be granted to professionals fully trained and qualified in accordance with the Directive.
4. FVE's comments in respect of the Directive 2005/36/EC and its coming revision are made solely in the interests of the consumers and for the benefit of animal health and welfare and human health.
5. FVE supports an upward harmonisation of the minimum training conditions (section 5 art 38) as well as of the study programme for veterinary surgeons (annex V.4.1) in order to guarantee the quality of the veterinary missions throughout Europe, given the critical role played by the veterinarians for animal and human health ("One Health").
6. FVE calls for the update of Annex V.4.1 of the Directive. Indeed, the minimum requirements included in this Annex are outdated and do not take into account the recent evolution of the veterinary medicine and the needs of the society. FVE calls for the "Day One" concept, strongly supported by most members, which might complement the Annex V.4.1.
In the future, the Annex should be updated on a regular basis, through a simplified procedure involving representatives of the veterinary profession.
7. FVE is aware that one of the limits of the implementation of the 2005/36/EC Directive is the lack of confidence between the Member States when it comes to automatic recognition of veterinary education. In order to address this problem, FVE has implemented a voluntary system of evaluation of the establishments for veterinary education in Europe. FVE believes in the relevance and effectiveness of such system and assesses that further steps must be made with the implementation of a formal accreditation system for veterinary faculties and schools enshrined in the text of the revised 2005/36/EC Directive.
8. FVE strongly supports the Internal Market Information (IMI) system given the fact that this tool is essential to the necessary communication between statutory bodies and Competent Authorities.
9. FVE is not convinced of the need and cost-effectiveness of a professional card. Besides, FVE believes that the question of the liability of such a system needs to be raised. Instead, FVE calls for the implementation of an "e-card" or "e-file" device, that could be linked to the IMI system and would be easier to use and more flexible.
10. FVE is committed to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and life-long learning, since most members have already implemented CPD schemes at national level. FVE now calls for the mutual recognition of these schemes and of national accreditation committees.

President

Walter Winding

Vice-Presidents

Christophe Buhot
Ljiljana Markuš
Rainer Schneichel
Stephen Ware

11. While recognising the benefits and interest of the Bologna process, FVE wishes to underline that this process is not adapted to the veterinary education and fears on the contrary that it could lead to the emergence of less qualified so called veterinarians.

Background notes:

1. Overview of FVE and OIE key actions in this field

Professional Qualification Directive public consultation – FVE responses

- [FVE Briefing Note](#)
 - [FVE final response](#)
- 2009 OIE Evolving [veterinary education](#) for a safer world
 - 2011 2nd World conference on veterinary education, Lyon: [resolutions](#)
 - Sectoral Professions [Press Release](#) and [Joint statement](#)
2. The [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe \(FVE\)](#) is an umbrella organisation of 44 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing a total of around 200 000 veterinarians.
 3. For further information, consult the FVE website <http://www.fve.org> or contact the FVE Secretariat on Tel +32 2 533 70 20 or by e-mail to info@fve.org