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Veterinarians in  
Education, Research  
and Industry

## FVE Working group on Honey Bees

### Terms of reference

#### Background

The honey bee population (*Apis mellifera*) plays an important role in both pollination and the production of honey and other apiculture products. EU harmonized rules exist to protect and maintain the health of honey bees. However, in the last decades an increase of bee mortality has been reported.

This led to a call for more scientific and technical knowledge about bee health and increase availability of bee medicines. Other issues under discussion in relation to bees are food safety aspects, pesticides, GMO's and biodiversity loss.

Although honey bees are classified as food-producing animals, to date, veterinary surgeons have played only a very modest role within the apiculture. To protect this important sector, it is important for veterinarians to work together with beekeepers to limit further losses.

In view of the developments and societal expectations in this field, FVE wishes to establish an ad hoc working group on honey bees.

#### Objective

The mandate of this ad hoc working group on honey bees is:

- to collect information regarding the health of the honey bee sector
- to make recommendations to the FVE Board on possible methods to involve the veterinary profession in the honey bee sector
- to support the Board producing science-based input to national and EU decision makers about honey bee health and
- to provide guidelines on training of veterinarians in honey bee medicines such as featuring of bee health in the veterinary curriculum, ..

#### Composition of the Working Group

With an eye on costs and efficiency, it was decided that the working group will consist of a maximum of six persons. A selection has to be made on the base of an equal balance of geographical and professional backgrounds, appointed by the executive director in consultation with the Board of Directors.

A chair will be appointed, who will be responsible for leading the discussions, maintaining contact with the secretariat and for making progress reports and a final report to the Board of Directors.

President

Christophe Buhot

Vice-Presidents

Hans-Joachim Götz  
Robert Huey  
Rafael Laguens  
Karin Östensson

**Secretarial support**

Secretarial support (organizing meetings and teleconferences, writing minutes, circulating documents, etc) will be provided by the FVE secretariat.

**Time frame**

This working group is planned to end its work before the end of 2013. The working group should develop a strategy with different actions and milestones. The Chair should ensure the FVE Boards to receive six-monthly updates on the reaching of the different milestones.

**Costs**

It is foreseen that the working group will have maximum 2 physical meetings in Brussels per year. As much as possible, communication will be done via electronic means such as via e-mail and/or teleconferences.

Costs for secretariat work, meeting room, refreshments will be covered by FVE.

The Board may decide to invite the chair of the Working Group to attend other meetings, such as a meeting of the Board or the General Assemble to present the paper. Costs associated with such visits will also be borne by FVE.

Estimated budget for FVE 2012: 3.000 Euro

Estimated budget for FVE 2013: 5.000 Euro

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