



**Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe**

**Newsletter  
February 2005**

# EDITO

## **Leading the way through the mazes of Brussels**

While last year our attention was focused on the EU enlargement, the elections of the new European Parliament and the composition of the new European Commission, we now look forward to a constitution for the European Union. Adopted by the European Council on 17 and 18 June and officially signed by the heads of state and governments on 29 October in Rome, it now has to be ratified by all Member States.

To this end, several Member States will organise referenda to determine the opinion of their citizens. This may cause problems if there is a lack of knowledge on the subject among voters. And despite the fact that complicated legal jargon has been avoided as much as possible, the proposed constitution is still not the most exciting bed-side read. Nevertheless it would be helpful if EU citizens had a minimum understanding of the most important parts, so that they can truly make up their own minds, without relying on some isolated issues, highlighted by certain politicians for their own benefit<sup>1</sup>.

Within our profession, a similar problem sometimes arises with regard to new veterinary legislation. Legislative texts are not always easy to read and to understand. Especially when there is no consolidated version available and articles refer to other articles that refer to yet others... In these cases it can be very difficult to get a good overview of the real meaning of new legislation — and its potential consequences.

This is why FVE considers communication and clarification of all legislation concerning the veterinary profession as one of its main tasks. A good example is the conference, organised jointly by the FVE and the EU Commission's TAIEX-office, on the new medicines Directive that is to be implemented this year. The FVE has also produced a flow chart to help to practitioners use the so-called cascade in cases where no authorised veterinary medicine is available.

In this Newsletter, you can find out more about these and many other issues FVE is currently working on. And please don't hesitate to contact us in case of questions or suggestions.

**Jan Vaarten**  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> An useful source of information: [http://europa.eu.int/constitution/summary\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/constitution/summary_en.htm)



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## Animal health & veterinary medicines

### *Equine medicines availability*

#### **CVMP drafts “positive list” with 76 substances**

A so-called “positive list” of 76 substances essential to the treatment of horses has been drawn up by the Committee of Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA). If accepted by the Commission, the list will give veterinarians more leeway in the treatment of food-producing horses when no legally authorised product is available or when the cascade offers no alternative.

Together with equine specialists from the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations, the FVE has been closely involved in drafting the list and is very proud of the result achieved so far.

The list, which has now been submitted to the Commission, contains substances that do not have a Maximum residue limit (MRL), and are therefore out of bounds for food producing animals. A withdrawal period of six months will apply to all of these substances when used in food-producing horses.



### *Pharmacovigilance*

#### **A user’s guide for veterinarians**

The EMA is preparing a guide on veterinary pharmacovigilance in the EU. To this end, a meeting was held on 10 January, which was attended by the FVE, represented by Stephen Ware (UEVP Board member) and Talina Sterneberg (FVE permanent office). Reporting channels and forms were discussed, as was the obligation of the prescribing veterinarian in the various Member States. In the discussion it became clear that different systems were practised in different Member States and IFAH-Europe asked the CVMP for an overview of the obligation for veterinarians in the MS.

Speaking on behalf of FVE, Mr Ware suggested that the reporting of adverse reactions should be made as simple as possible and forms should be readily available. He also pointed out the difficulty regarding “lack of efficacy” of medicines, since this could also be due to a wrong diagnosis leading to a reluctance to report. Regarding the forms, he suggested to include the place and conditions of purchase of the drug in question. This would allow differentiating medicines that had been acquired using a veterinary prescription from those that had not. The FVE offered its assistance for the development and promotion of the guide.

### *BSE confirmed in a goat*

#### **European Commission to step up testing**

On 28 January, a goat slaughtered in France was confirmed as having BSE. This is the first time that BSE has been found in a goat under natural conditions. However, precautionary measures to protect consumers have been applied in the EU for several years. Over 140 000 goats have been tested since April 2002, including random testing of healthy animals, sick animals and those that die on the farm. Following the confirmation of BSE in a goat, the Commission has decided to step

up testing for BSE among goats for at least 6 months (200 000 tests of healthy goats in the EU) to determine if this is an isolated incident.

The European Food Safety Authority has advised that, based on current scientific knowledge, goat milk and derived products are unlikely to present any risk of TSE contamination if the milk comes from healthy animals.

The Regulation on the monitoring of goats for BSE has been adopted and published in the OJ (L37) on 10 February

## *Animal Disease Control*

### **Brussels Conference on the EU control strategy of contagious diseases**

In December, a conference was held on the material and immaterial cost of animal disease, organised by the Dutch EU presidency. Some 450 experts and stakeholders from the field of animal husbandry, including the president and executive director of FVE, attended the conference<sup>1</sup>. The most important question was how to control animal disease outbreaks in a way that is both affordable and socially acceptable. Particular attention was given to the disease control approach to future outbreaks of foot and mouth disease.

Speaking on behalf of the European Consumers Organisation (BUEC), Mr Patrick Sutton informed the audience that a survey had shown that consumers had no safety concerns regarding meat from vaccinated animals. They did not expect or request separate labelling for products from such animals, he said.

At the occasion of this conference, a technology platform on global animal health was launched<sup>2</sup>. The platform brings together veterinary pharmaceutical and small biotechnology companies, research institutions, the financial world and the regulatory authorities at the European level. The veterinary profession is involved in the platform through FVE.

## *Animal Health & Welfare Strategy*

### **Improved disease control and prevention**

On 21 December, a new EU Animal Health Strategy to improve the prevention and control of animal disease in the EU was announced by European Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou<sup>3</sup>. The Commission plans to propose a Communication in 2007 setting out actions for 2007-13.

Animal disease outbreaks are costly and there are also ethical issues related to the mass slaughter of animals when controlling an outbreak. There is also a growing concern about the potential impact of diseases such as avian influenza on human health. The new EU animal health




Markos Kyprianou, Cyprus, Commissioner for Health and Consumers Protection  
*Picture from EU Parliament website*

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations that came out of the conference can be found at:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/strategy/recomm\\_material\\_immaterial\\_costs\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/strategy/recomm_material_immaterial_costs_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For further information:  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1499&format=HTML&aged=0&language=E N&guiLanguage=en>

<sup>3</sup> For further information: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index_en.htm)



strategy therefore aims to develop the policy of disease prevention, make emergency vaccination a more viable option, simplify the legislation and make better use of financial resources. The existing EU animal health policy will soon undergo an external evaluation.

Regarding the welfare of farm animals, Commissioner Kyprianou (DG Sanco) announced, on 25 January, that his Directorate is looking into adopting an Action Plan on animal welfare.

The main focus for DG Sanco regarding animal welfare for the coming 12 months will be a draft Directive on avian influenza, a proposal on the welfare of broilers and possibly a draft Regulation on animal health conditions for aquaculture animals and products.

## Animal Welfare

### *Welfare of animals during transport*

#### **New Regulation published**

A new Regulation on the welfare of animals during transport has been published<sup>4</sup> following political agreement during the November Council meeting of EU Farm ministers. Although the FVE welcomes the new Regulation, in which the step-by-step approach is central, it regrets that the new agreement does not touch upon the more controversial aspects such as traveling times, rest periods and loading densities.

The new Regulation includes stricter rules on control and responsibility; increased supervision of vehicles with the aid of a satellite navigation system; stricter requirements for the training of long distance drivers and for the approval of transports; improved possibilities for national sanctions and improved information exchange between Member States; and shared responsibility for the welfare of livestock during transport: not only the transport companies but anyone in the transport chain can be held responsible for violations.

Conditions are also being laid down for sea vessels and containers in which livestock is transported, for transport around the farm, for loading and unloading and the direct handling of the animal.

Furthermore, it is possible to enforce stricter national rules. It has also been agreed that, within four years of this Regulation entering into force (2 years after publication in the Official Journal, December 2004) the European Commission will come with an evaluation report. This may lead then to a proposal for modification that might regulate the drive and rest times and the loading of the trucks.

MEPs have launched a written declaration for a time limit of 8 hours for the transport of live animals for further fattening and slaughter. If a declaration is signed - within a 3-month period - by the majority of MEPs (367 signatures required), it is adopted and the President notifies Parliament.

### *EFSA opinion adopted*

#### **Microclimate inside road vehicles**

The EFSA Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare adopted an opinion on the standards for the microclimate inside road transport vehicles<sup>5</sup>. Micro-climate on transporters can significantly

<sup>4</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97

<sup>5</sup> For further information: [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw\\_opinions/657\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw_opinions/657_en.html)

influence the welfare and health of the transported animals. Particularly, overheating in summer and too low temperatures in winter can lead to deaths and suffering of the animals from heat or cold stress.


Although the temperature and ventilation requirements of the report adopted in 1999 by SCAHAW remain valid, scientific progress has been made in understanding the efficiency of different ventilation systems. This means that the present temperature regulation should allow for more flexibility depending on the technical equipment of the lorry (forced ventilation, misting in summer for cooling purposes, and heating the incoming air in cold condition). Finally, it is important that the climatic conditions inside the trucks can be controlled by the person responsible for the transport. This person must have proper technical training.

The publication of the EFSA opinion on the welfare of laying hens is expected in the near future.

## Slaughter without prior stunning

### FVE poster produced for Berlin congress

On 1 and 2 April, the 26<sup>th</sup> congress of the German Veterinary Medical Society (DVG) will be held in Berlin<sup>6</sup>. A half-day session of the congress programme is dedicated to animal welfare during ritual slaughter. On this occasion, the FVE has produced a poster setting out its opinion on the slaughter of animals without prior stunning. The Federation finds this “unacceptable under any circumstances”, and outlines its arguments. Until such a ban is in place, the poster also lists the minimum requirements for slaughter without stunning.



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# Slaughter of animals without prior stunning

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### Introduction

According to the FVE Code of Good Veterinary Practice, veterinarians shall endeavour to ensure the welfare and health of the animals under their care. In addition, actions of the veterinary profession they work FVE Code of Good Practice.

As much concern has been raised regarding the slaughter of animals without prior stunning, for ritual purposes or due to real practice during ritual slaughter, FVE undertook to review the scientific aspects of slaughter without prior stunning, in relation to animal welfare and food hygiene.

According to Council Directive 853/EEC, animals shall be spared any avoidable pain or suffering at the time of slaughter or killing. However, religious, cultural, ritual, and scientific reasons shall be taken into account. It is also necessary that in other parts of the world, in New Zealand in particular, protocols have been developed, which allow lawful methods of stunning whilst meeting the requirements of some of the religious rites.

### Principle

FVE is of the opinion that from an animal welfare point of view, and out of respect for an animal as a sentient being, the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning is unacceptable under any circumstances, for the following reasons:

- Slaughter without stunning increases the time to loss of consciousness, sometimes up to several minutes. During this period of consciousness the animal can be exposed to unnecessary pain and suffering due to:

- exposed wound surfaces;
- the possible aspiration of blood and, in the case of ruminants, rumen content;
- the possible suffering from asphyxia after severing the *n. phrenicus* and *n. vagus*.

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### Annex

#### Minimum requirements for slaughter without prior stunning.

However, as long as any derogation is allowed under national or European legislation, the following minimum requirements shall be required for the slaughter of animals without prior stunning:

- Slaughterhouses should be specifically approved for this purpose and the approval should be subject to certain equipment being available.
- Slaughterhouses require a licensed slaughterhouse must not be allowed. No exceptions shall be allowed.
- Staff involved at the point of slaughter must be specifically trained for this purpose. This training must include theoretical aspects to be decided by the competent authority in addition to any training given by religious authorities. It should include an explanation and written requirement of the slaughterers. The initial training should be carried out on animals of dead animals.
- The slaughtering process must be in the permanent presence of a veterinarian who has the authority and obligation to intervene whenever necessary.
- Animals for ritual slaughter must be pre-selected. Only animals destined for the consumption of the religious community concerned should be selected for the ritual.
- The farmer who produced the animal has the right to know how his animal will be slaughtered.
- The "ritualisation" part must be banned.
- Devices should not be inserted for the purpose of slaughtering.
- Should slaughtering take place without prior stunning, animals should be stunned immediately following the cut.
- The quality, the speed of the line must be adapted to guarantee that each animal can be slaughtered correctly.
- The knife has to be very sharp and its length must be at least twice of the width of the neck.
- Animals shall not be restrained until the slaughterer is ready to slaughter them. The cut must then be carried out immediately after restraint and control of any environmental movement in which both carotid arteries and both jugular veins are cut.
- The second edges must not come together and the animal must remain in the restraint, upright position until death occurs.
- The carcass and all products derived from it must be labelled so as to clearly indicate the method of slaughter used, including whether or not prior stunning was employed.
- Products prepared from dead animals should comply with identical standards to those laid down for Europe.

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2. Egan, J., Whelan, J., Doherty, J., Griffin, K., Harkin, D., Hayes, G., O'Connell, M.P.: Effect of stunning on carotid, thoracic and abdominal venous and arteriovenous of the porcine musculature: effects on the quality of animal slaughter. *Meat Science* 68(2): 121-127

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20. Jensen, M., and Rasmussen, M.: Slaughter of animals without prior stunning. *Meat Science* 68(2): 121-127

FVE is of the opinion that the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning is unacceptable under any circumstances.

<sup>6</sup> For further information: [info@bsi-schwarzenbeck.de](mailto:info@bsi-schwarzenbeck.de)

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## *Motion for an EP Resolution*

### **Call for EU-wide ban on slaughter without stunning**

On 27 January, a motion for a Resolution on the slaughter of animals<sup>7</sup> was proposed in the European Parliament regarding the welfare of animals during slaughter. Slaughter methods causing unnecessary suffering to animals, including for ritual or religious reasons, should be banned and a monitoring system should be set up, according to the proposed Resolution.

## **Public health**

### *Food hygiene*

### **FVE working group meeting**

The FVE ad hoc group on hygiene will meet in Brussels on 22 February. On the agenda: HACCP, Food Chain Information, training of official veterinarians, microbiological checks and the rapid alert system. For further information, please contact the FVE Office.

## *Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point*

### **Commission to facilitate implementation in small food businesses**

With the adoption by the EP and Council of Regulation 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, all food businesses are required to put in place, implement and maintain a system based on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The Regulation also introduces the principle of flexibility to ensure that the system is applicable in all situations, including in small businesses. To this end, the Commission has now drafted a working document<sup>8</sup> to explore the extent of the flexibility and to give guidance on a simplified implementation of the HACCP requirements in small food businesses.

FVE welcomes the draft Commission working document on HACCP facilitation in small food businesses. The working document approach will increase the rate of compliance in small businesses and the commitment to food safety. It will also help official control agencies to ensure legal compliance while not been seen to overburden small industry and threaten their viability. In relation to microbiological criteria (Commission Decision 471/2001) and the verification of HACCP, FVE believes that urgent consideration should be given to non-microbiological methods.

<sup>7</sup> Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the slaughter of animals:  
<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+MOTION+B6-2005-0084+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

<sup>8</sup> Sanco/3069/2004: [http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/fhph/draft\\_legislation/haccp\\_in\\_small\\_businesses.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/fhph/draft_legislation/haccp_in_small_businesses.pdf)



## *Equine identification*

### **Draft Regulation on microchips and passports**

A draft Commission Regulation on the method of identification of horses was discussed by the animal welfare group of the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFAH).

The proposed Regulation<sup>9</sup> sets out the identification and ID documents (a fraud-resistant passport or a “smart card” for national movements) for horses born in the EU as well as permanently imported horses. Horses born after 31 December 2005 are to be identified by electronic transponder (microchip) in the neck. This will apply to all horses after 31 December 2009. Identified horses will also receive a universal equine life number (UELN). By default, all horses shall be considered as “intended for slaughter” unless requested otherwise.

The Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) welcomes the paper but has raised a number of concerns, such as the application of the “smart card”, the recovery of the microchip at slaughter, the definition of a “person qualified to apply the transponder” and the way of defining horses as intended for human consumption. It also questions the reason for the four-year delay in the identification of horses born before 31 December 2005. An informal meeting will be held in Brussels on 15 February, with representatives of DG Sanco, FEEVA and FVE.

## **FVE matters**

### *Questionnaires and regional meetings*

### **FVE prepares its new strategic plan**

During its last General Assembly, the FVE adopted the board’s plan for the development of a future strategy for the Federation. The plan comprises two stages. During the first stage - which runs until June 2005 – an outline of a strategy will be developed at Federation level. This will be presented to the GA of June 2005. During the second stage, from June to November 2005, the draft will be amended according to recommendations of the GA, and action-plans will be drawn up. These will then be presented at the November GA for final discussion and adoption.

The first step of the development process a members survey and three regional strategy working parties:

- 18 February, in Ljubljana (Slovenia): Alpine and Mediterranean countries
- 2 March, in Copenhagen (Denmark): Northern and Western Europe
- 18 March, in Ohrid (FYROM): Eastern Europe and Balkan states

The issues to be considered during these meetings include the mission of the FVE, its vision and objectives, as well as topics such as membership fees, composition of the GA and the board and communication.

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<sup>9</sup>[http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/identification/draft\\_legislation/draft\\_eu\\_regulation\\_identification\\_equidae\\_rev9.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/identification/draft_legislation/draft_eu_regulation_identification_equidae_rev9.pdf)

## *Meeting with DG SANCO*

### **Food safety, animal welfare and horse passports discussed**

On 27 January, an FVE delegation met the deputy director general of DG SANCO, Mrs Jaana Husu-Kallio. Important items on the agenda were food safety (HACCP), Food chain information, labelling, animal welfare, and the horse passport.

*12-13 November*

### **FVE General Assembly held in Brussels**

The FVE held its General Assembly on 12 and 13 November in Brussels. Over 120 delegates from 31 FVE member countries attended the meeting.

Guest speaker Dr Jean-Luc Angot of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) presented the mission and activities of his organisation. Dr Angot also underlined the “essential link” between animal health and animal welfare. Animal welfare had been identified as “high priority” by the OIE. Transportation, humane slaughter and killing for disease control were considered top priorities, followed by housing and management of food producing animals.



Dr Jean-Luc Angot (OIE)



Mr Peter Jones (EMEA)


Another speaker at the FVE general assembly, Mr Peter Jones, head of the Veterinary unit of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA), gave an update on a number of regulatory topics, including pharmacovigilance. Knowing more about possible adverse reactions could not only help to minimise losses and distress to animal owners, but also facilitate off-label use and increase the availability of medicines to minor species, he said. As for the availability of medicines, Mr Jones praised the FVE for its “extremely hard work”, which had achieved a number of results.

Regarding the list of essential products for horses without MRL, Mr Jones congratulated the FVE and the FEEVA for their “outstanding contribution”.

Guest speaker Mr Ko Minderhoud (Dutch Ministry of Agriculture) gave a presentation on the veterinary management of large herbivores in nature parks. Other topics discussed at the GA included animal welfare, the evaluation of veterinary schools, professional qualifications and services in the Internal Market and the hygiene package, while the FVE president outlined the preparations for a new strategic plan. The Federation furthermore welcomed the Romanian Veterinary College as a new member. Voting rights will be shared with the General Romanian Veterinary Association, already a member.



Mr Jakobus Minderhoud  
(Dutch Ministry of Agriculture)



Ongoing developments regarding a new European section for veterinarians from the research, industry and educational sectors (EVERI) were also presented. The founding board is composed of Anne-Dominique Degryse (France) as president, with Peter Nowlan (Ireland), Henriette Stroem (Denmark) and Richard Weilenmann (Switzerland) as members.

The spring general assembly will be held in Nice (France) on 3 and 4 June, and the next autumn GA on 18 and 19 November 2005, in Brussels.

### *FVE-TAIEX seminar held in Brussels*

#### **Prudent use of veterinary medicines**

A two-day seminar on the prudent use of veterinary medicines was held in Brussels on 1-2 February. The seminar was organised by the EU Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (TAIEX) in co-operation with FVE. Aim of the meeting was to outline the current EU legislation on the distribution and prudent use of veterinary medicines, to veterinarians from new EU Member States and applicant countries. The seminar included working groups on the cascade system, pharmacovigilance and traceability. Over 80 participants attended the meeting, including delegates from the ten new Member States, EU applicant countries (Romania, Croatia, Turkey) and five Balkan countries (Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia & Montenegro, FYROM and Bosnia-Herzegovina). The programme offered a wide variety of speakers, including representatives from the Commission, academia, the EMEA as well as veterinary practitioners.

## **Education**

### *Education and specialisation*

#### **Plans for a European Co-ordinating Committee for Veterinary Training**

A joint meeting was held on 24 November between representatives of Europe's veterinary schools (EAEVE), veterinary specialists (EBVS) and the FVE. During the meeting, plans were drawn up for the creation of a European Co-ordinating Committee for Veterinary Training (ECCVT), which would include representatives of all three organisations. Scope of the ECCVT would be to develop policies on both undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary training. Its tasks will be based on the objectives of the Commission's ACVT (Advisory committee for Veterinary Training), the FVE/EAEVE joint policy committee (JPC) and the earlier proposal for Joint Committee for European Postgraduate Training. Once the ECCVT is up and running, the JPC will be dissolved.

This is the first time that all three veterinary organisations will meet on a regular basis and will speak with a united voice on the issue of veterinary education.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included non specialist post-graduate veterinary training and the recognition of professional qualifications. The next joint meeting will be held on 21 June.



## *Joint Policy Committee on Education*

### **8 February Meeting**

The EAEVE/FVE joint policy committee on veterinary education met in Brussels on 8 February. During the meeting, it discussed the creation of the ECCVT (see article above), Bachelor and master's degrees in veterinary medicine, relations with the OIE, life-long learning and undergraduate training.



## **Professional recognition**

### *Health professionals crossing borders*

### **Conferences highlight need for closer collaboration of statutory bodies**

A conference on “health care professionals crossing borders” was held in The Hague on 9-10 December (In spite of its essential role in public health and food safety, it should be noted that the veterinary profession is rarely recognised as a health care profession by third parties!). The conference focussed on safeguarding the quality of health care services in view of the free movement of professionals within the EU. Supervisory arrangements within the EU were considered inadequate, while doctors who have been subject to disciplinary proceedings in one country, were found to easily resume practice in another. There is an urgent need for an adequate system of exchanging information between the competent authorities.


For the veterinary profession, similar subjects were discussed at a meeting held in December at the OIE headquarters in Paris. In his opening speech, Bernard Vallat (OIE), stressed the importance of adequate exchange of reliable information on animal health statuses. Professional competence, independence and integrity should be among the requirements to practice, he said. Statutory bodies, covered by public legislation, should be in charge of the accreditation of veterinarians, he added. During the meeting, chaired by Christian Rondeau, participants discussed the different systems, conditions and procedures of granting and withdrawing veterinary licenses. Representatives of the FVE board and staff attended the meeting.

### *Recognition of professional qualifications*

### **FVE meets with Commission for clarification**

The Council Common Position on the recognition of professional qualifications was passed on to the European Parliament on 13 January for a second reading of the text. IMCO (internal market and consumer protection) of the European Parliament is the responsible committee and Mr Zappala MEP remains rapporteur. In order to decide which amendments FVE would like to have retabled, a meeting was arranged with Mrs Pamela Brumter-Coret (DG Market) to clarify certain points. During the meeting, several topics were discussed, not only regarding the proposed Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications but also the one regarding the provision of services in the Internal Market.

Mrs Brumter-Coret was a valuable source of information on the Commission's interpretation of certain issues, such as disciplinary rules applying to veterinarians supplying their services in other Member States, professional ID cards, language testing, minimum training requirements and the



EAEVE/FVE evaluation system of veterinary training establishments. Mrs Brumter-Coret showed particular interest in the functioning of the latter, asked for further background information, and suggested that it would be helpful if visitation reports would be accessible to the competent authorities of other Member States.

The deadline for tabling amendments is the beginning of March. A vote in the European Parliament is expected to take place in April on Committee level and in May on Plenary level. It is hoped that the EP will reach final agreement with Council before the end of the Luxembourg Presidency (30 June 2005).

### *Services in the Internal Market*

#### **FVE comments on the proposed Directive**

Regarding the proposed EP and Council Directive on services in the internal market, the FVE agrees that providers of veterinary services should be able to move freely through the EU. However, the FVE stresses that the qualifications and professional skills should be of an equivalent level as those offered in the host Member State. According to FVE, it is “essential” that the recipients of veterinary services (including animal owners and public veterinary services) can rely upon the quality of the services. The FVE therefore considers it crucial that veterinarians wishing to provide their services in another Member State should notify the competent authority in the host country in advance, thereby allowing the competent authority to check qualifications and professional standing prior to the provision of services<sup>10</sup>.

### **Meetings**

#### *International Conference on Emerging Snail Borne Helminth Diseases*

##### **Copenhagen (Denmark), 21-22 June 2005**

More information and registration form:

[http://www.dblnet.dk/downloads/Conference\\_helminth.doc](http://www.dblnet.dk/downloads/Conference_helminth.doc)

#### *British Veterinary Association*

##### **London (UK), 30 September-1 October 2005**

E-mail: [congress@bva.co.uk](mailto:congress@bva.co.uk)- Web site: [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

#### *3rd European Meeting on Viral Zoonoses*

##### **St. Raphaël (France), 28-31 May 2005**

More information is available from <http://www.euroviralzoon.com>

<sup>10</sup> FVE position paper: [http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/prof/position\\_papers/fve\\_05\\_001\\_sim%20final.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/prof/position_papers/fve_05_001_sim%20final.pdf)

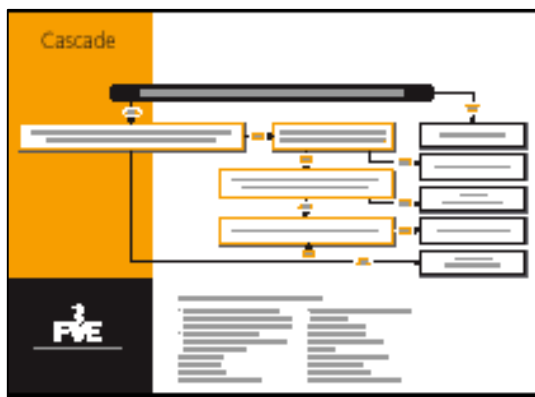
## Special focus

### *Cascade made easy*

#### **FVE produces a practical tool for veterinary practitioners**

Am I allowed to use a human product in cattle? And in horses? How long do I need to keep records, and what must they contain? With an ever-changing legislation it's not always easy to find your way through the mazes of the legal possibilities. For this reason, the FVE decided to produce a simple, two-sided leaflet setting out the current rules and regulations in a visual way<sup>11</sup>.

On page one, the general cascade rules as they apply to all domestic species except horses, are



presented as a decision tree, with a list of specific precautions for food producing animals and requirements for record-keeping. By answering a number of questions (is there an authorised product for this species and indication? Is there a suitable product authorised for another species or indication in your Member State?), the diagram leads the user to the correct treatment option.

On the backside, the cascade diagram as it applies to horses, including the possibility to use a substance from the so-called positive list if no product is available for food-producing horses.

#### **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, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia/Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom  
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<sup>11</sup> To obtain a copy, please contact the secretariat. The electronic version is available on FVE website:  
[http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/vetmed/other\\_docs/cascade\\_flowchart.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/vetmed/other_docs/cascade_flowchart.pdf)