



Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe



Newsletter - December 2005

# EDITO

## Looking back and planning ahead

As the year 2005 draws to an end, it is time to look back on what has been achieved and to make new plans for the future.

When looking back on the development of the European Union, 2005 was perhaps not the most successful year. The process leading to a Constitution seems to have run aground and it is not clear if, and when, it will be set afloat again. Then there was the debate over the budget. Several Member States took strong defensive positions and the discussion seemed to be dominated by *"how can I get more out of it"* instead of *"what do we want for the future and how do we pay for it"*.

It is clear that every organization can only be as strong as its members allow it to be. It is for this exact reason that the veterinary profession in Europe can be proud on the outcome of the recent General Assembly of the FVE, where its Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010 was adopted unanimously. This plan clearly outlines the direction the profession wants to go: be an integral part of the society, take up the tasks society has conferred to it, with an open mind for society's needs but without losing sight of its own responsibilities. In other words, not claiming a position but justifying it by the nature and the quality of the services provided.

More specifically, FVE strives to promote animal health and welfare and public health in a scientific and ethical way. FVE will endeavour to enhance the synergy between practitioners and their colleagues at other levels of the food chain. We also want to stimulate veterinary research and education. Much attention will be given to the concept of lifelong learning, and FVE will organise a conference on education next spring, covering subjects like the future veterinary curriculum and the Bologna declaration.

Coming back to the position of the individual Member States in the European Union, FVE is concerned about the way the Irish Minister of Agriculture intends to implement the medicines directive. Although it may be useful to stimulate competition in the market place, the decoupling of farm visits from issuing a prescription, and extending the life of a prescription to six months go against certain general principles. In particular against those principles, adopted by all Member States in the Council, which state that *"the main purpose of any regulation on the manufacture and distribution of veterinary medicinal products should be to safeguard animal health and welfare as well as public health."*

For us as veterinarians, the main goal for 2006 and beyond is to do just that: *"safeguard animal health and welfare as well as public health"*. A goal that can only be reached by working together at all levels.

FVE wishes you a very good New Year!

Jan Vaarten  
FVE executive director

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## Animal health & Medicines

### Avian Influenza

An update of the outbreaks of avian influenza (A/H5N1) in animals in Europe is available at the EU Commission's website<sup>1</sup>

On 29 November, the European Commission adopted two plans to help prepare the EU and its Member States to deal with major cross-border health emergencies and a possible influenza pandemic. The Communication on pandemic influenza preparedness updates the Commission's existing plan of March 2004<sup>2</sup>.



Photo from \*eStHER\*

#### Disease control measures

Regarding the EU expenditure for measures to combat avian influenza<sup>3</sup>, European Parliament adopted several amendments to the Commission's proposal on the matter. The main amendments include the provision of equal levels of financial assistance for both high and low pathogenic AI cases, 100% EU funding of vaccination, the creation of a European animal health fund ('as budgetary provision is likely to be insufficient in the event of a new epidemic'), and a provision for cooperation and technical support to (Asian) third countries to improve preventive and screening measures.

The European Parliament also adopted several amendments to the Commission proposal on disease control measures, including increased surveillance, possible derogations for non-commercial holdings, measures in case of serological detection of AI which cannot be confirmed by virus isolation or PCR-tests, quarantine and other emergency measures, the provision of 'adequate' stocks of vaccines and antivirals and the prohibition of labelling meat according to the vaccination status.

On 20 December, the Council has unanimously adopted the revised avian influenza Directive and also reached political agreement by unanimity to the text regarding the Decision setting the EU contribution on eradication measures. The thorniest issue at stake concerned precisely the Decision, as it implied to determine the appropriate share of the financial burden between the Member States and the Community. The text will now go to jurist linguists and will subsequently be formally adopted at a future AGRI Council. The Directive shall enter into force in the Member States by 1 July 2007.

#### ECDC: 'minimising the risk of acquiring HPAI'

On 12 December, European Chief Medical Officers (CMO) and Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) discussed and endorsed guidelines on the protection of poultry workers against avian influenza, proposed by the Stockholm-based European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) also participated in the meeting. According to ECDC, the risk of poultry workers being infected by AI type H5N1 is low. The risk of human infection following exposure to other highly pathogenic avian influenzas (such as H7N7) is higher even though the disease they cause in humans tends to be less dangerous. Guidelines from the ECDC are available on-line<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_threats/com/Influenza/ai\\_europe\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/com/Influenza/ai_europe_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> For further information, see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health\\_consumer/dyna/influenza/index.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/influenza/index.cfm)

<sup>3</sup> Expenditure in the veterinary field: measures to combat avian influenza, Community financial assistance (amend. Dec 90/424/EEC) COM(2005) 171-2

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ecdc.eu.int/avian\\_influenza/occupational\\_exposure.php](http://www.ecdc.eu.int/avian_influenza/occupational_exposure.php)



## Disease control programmes

### **Budget of €185 million to fight animal diseases in 2006**

On 30 November, the European Commission approved a financial package of €185 million to support programmes to eradicate, control and monitor animal diseases in 2006. The 129 approved programmes will tackle animal diseases that impact both human and animal health.

A total of 63 programmes to eradicate and monitor 10 major animal diseases were submitted to the Commission, of which 49 have been approved for Community financial support. The total EU contribution to these programmes is €49.7 million. Within this budget, priority is given to zoonoses, including brucellosis (€26.7 million), rabies (€8.2 million) and tuberculosis (€7.9 million).

A total of €4.5 million is allocated to preventive surveillance of salmonella in poultry, double the amount of 2005.

For TSE monitoring, €88.3 million will be made available for rapid tests. For BSE eradication programmes across Europe, the EU will give €8.7 million in co-funding. A further €34.1 million is dedicated to approved scrapie eradication programmes.

## Medicines

### **FVE draws up list of veterinary ‘critically important antimicrobials’**

The FVE has submitted a list of critically important antimicrobials in veterinary medicine to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Aim of this list is to safeguard the efficacy and availability of veterinary antibiotics for diseases where there are few or no antimicrobial alternatives. The list will complement the identification of similar antimicrobials in human medicine, to be drawn up by the WHO.

The list submitted by FVE consists of a database with of critically important’ antimicrobials listed according to their active substance and the species in which they are used. For each substance, the various disease indications and pathogens are given, as well as the treatment route, available alternatives, economic importance of the disease and consequences for welfare.

The list was established thanks to contributions from professional organisations from several FVE member countries, and it may be used as a framework by organisations that still need to submit a similar list to their national government.

### **Draft list of substances essential for the treatment of equidae**

Article 10(3) of Directive 2001/82/EC, as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC, allows the treatment of equidae that are intended for slaughter for human consumption with substances which are considered to be essential for the treatment of equidae but do not have a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) provided that a withdrawal period not less than six months is respected. This means that for horses - in order to avoid unacceptable suffering in cases where no authorized product is available and where also the use of the so called ‘cascade for food producing animals’ does not give a solution - one can make use of the products that are on this list, without affecting the status of the animal as a food producing animal. The use of these products must be registered in the horse’s passport. The draft Commission Regulation establishing this list of substances for the treatment of equidae has now been released for external consultation<sup>5</sup>.

An alternative possibility is to declare the horse as not intended for slaughter, something that will open the way to the use of the cascade for non-food producing animals. The horse must be identified and the declaration must be made in the horse’s passport.

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<sup>5</sup>[http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/pharmacos/docs/Doc2005/12-05/2005-12\\_draftproposal\\_horse.pdf](http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/pharmacos/docs/Doc2005/12-05/2005-12_draftproposal_horse.pdf)

## Animal welfare

### Welfare of weaners and rearing pigs



#### **The impact of flooring and space allowance on pig health and welfare**

An opinion on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs with regard to space allowances and floor types was adopted by the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) on 13 September<sup>6</sup>, following a request from the European Commission. The request stems from the ‘pig welfare’ Directive<sup>7</sup>, which foresees that the Commission should consider preparing “appropriate legislative proposals” on matter.

The report notes that pigs use separate areas for lying and for urination and defecation except when stressed, in case of insufficient space allowance, or if the system is poorly designed or managed. The experts confirm that the provision of sufficient area suitable for lying and dunging “will minimise lying in the dunging area and fouling of the lying area in order to maintain good hygiene and minimise disease”.

The scientists consider it “unlikely” that different space allowances have any significant effect on the contamination by highly contagious diseases of significant importance, and found “no evidence” of the type of floor having an impact on the spread of such diseases. However, floors with bad drainage and/or insufficient removal of manure will increase the risk of enteric infections in pigs, and enteric disorders are more frequent on solid floor systems. On the other hand, the risk of respiratory disease is higher in slatted floor systems, especially if the removal of slurry is infrequent and if there is inappropriate ventilation.

Space allowances and floor quality should facilitate the provision of adequate environmental enrichment such as foraging material in order to reduce the risk of disturbed behaviour such as tail biting. Small quantities of structured straw or other materials for manipulation can be used on solid or slatted floors. A key problem is to provide this while still allowing an efficient removal of manure.

“Overcrowding is a risk factor for disease expression and other causes of poor welfare and should be avoided.” The amount of space required for pigs is described using the equation:  $A$  (space allowance) in  $m^2 = k(\text{numeric constant}) \times W(\text{body weight})^{0.67}$ . This calculation results in a slightly higher space allowance than in the current Directive.

### Farm Animal Welfare

#### **Commission launches public Internet consultation**

Early November, the European Commission launched an internet consultation on the welfare of farm animals<sup>8</sup>, to assess the level of public awareness of animal welfare issues, and to gauge their importance to EU citizens. Questions in the online survey cover the perceived level of animal welfare protection in the EU, including for individual species. Other topics relate to the sources and quality of information on animal welfare, and measures that could be taken at EU-level to increase awareness on this issue.

Participants in the survey are also asked what results they would expect to see if animal welfare standards were to become a greater consideration in food production. This online survey, which will close on 20 December 2005, is the second initiative in the framework of the Commission's consultation on animal welfare.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw\\_opinions/1203\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw_opinions/1203_en.html)

<sup>7</sup> Council Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, amended by Council Directive 2001/88/EC

<sup>8</sup> For further information: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/consultations/action\\_plan\\_farmed\\_background\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/consultations/action_plan_farmed_background_en.htm)

Commission acts to put an end to export refunds for live animals

European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel on 20 December announced her intention to immediately eliminate refunds for all EU exports of live cattle. The proposal reflects the improved market situation for beef in EU. It comes only two days after the EU has vowed to eliminate all exports subsidies in agriculture before the end of 2013 as part of a global deal in the current World Trade Organisations talks on promoting international trade.

## Council of Europe meeting

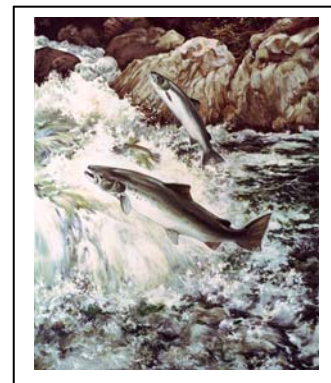
### Health and welfare of farmed fish: recommendation adopted

The Recommendation concerning farmed fish<sup>9</sup> (doc T-AP (97) 1) was unanimously adopted by the Council of Europe's Standing Committee on the protection of animals for farming purposes, at its meeting in Strasbourg on 5-7 December. Recommendations include articles on stockmanship and inspection, enclosures, management, research and emergency killing. The convention will enter into force on 5 June 2006. This is the first time that welfare requirements of farmed fish have been taken into consideration in specific European legislation.

The Recommendation shall be completed with species-specific appendices (starting with the rainbow trout the Atlantic salmon and carp). The Committee also considered the draft Appendix on emergency stunning and killing methods from the Recommendation concerning farmed fish.

Regarding recommendations on cattle, the main discussions among delegates concerned the provision of water (rather than other liquids such as milk or electrolyte solutions) for young calves, the banning or not of slatted floors and tethering, the age at which calves should be group housed, the use of electrical goads, slope angle of loading and the feeding of roughage to calves.

At the meeting, David Pritchard (Veterinary Animal Welfare Division, Defra, UK) was elected new chairman of the Standing Committee, replacing Birte Broberg from Denmark whose input over the past years was widely appreciated. The other board members were re-elected.



## Welfare of laying hens

### Stakeholders discuss date of final ban on battery cages

A stakeholders' meeting on the welfare of laying hens was organised by DG Sanco on 25 November. Participants included representatives from industry<sup>10</sup>, animal welfare organisations<sup>11</sup> and the veterinary profession, represented by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (Johan Beck-Friis and Nancy De Briyne). Unfortunately, stakeholders representing consumers' organisations were absent.

<sup>9</sup> doc T-AP (97) 1

<sup>10</sup> COPA/COGECA, European Hatchery Organisations (EHA), European Organisation for exporters of day-old-chicks and hatching eggs (EPEXA), European association of world poultry science, European union of wholesale with eggs, egg products, poultry and game (EUWEP)

<sup>11</sup> Compassion in world farming (CIWF), Eurogroup for animal welfare, International fund for animal welfare (IFAW) and the World society for the protection of animals (WSPA)

The main discussion point at the meeting was the date of banning battery cages according to the 1999 Directive on the welfare of laying hens<sup>12</sup>. The Directive distinguishes three types of rearing systems for laying hens: enriched (furnished) cages, non-enriched cages and non-cage systems. The construction of new non-enriched cages ('battery cages') has been banned since 2003, while by 2012, their use will be prohibited altogether.

At the meeting, it turned out that several Member States had already widely embraced this change, while in others, battery cages still represented the overwhelming majority of production systems. Farmers' representatives from these countries asked for a postponement of the implementation date, which would bring a trade disadvantage to those countries that had already opted for enriched or non-cage systems. It was generally accepted that the new systems offered improved welfare for laying hens, while many called for improved labelling of consumer eggs and for trade compensations for countries with higher welfare systems.

In line with the Directive, the Commission is to submit a report on the various systems of rearing laying hens, taking into account an EFSA opinion on this subject<sup>13</sup> and a specific socio-economic study. The Commission's report will be submitted to the Council early 2006 in order to take account of the final results of LAYWEL. This Community-funded research project is currently investigating welfare implications of changes in production systems for laying hens. The results of this project should be available end of January 2006.



## Animal welfare inspections

### EASVO carries out European survey

The European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO), one of the FVE sections, carried out a survey on the situation on the monitoring and inspection of compliance with farm animal welfare legislation in its member countries.

Respondents were asked to indicate the national competent authority dealing with EU animal welfare inspections; to indicate who carries out the actual welfare visits; how farms are selected; what percentage or number of farms are inspected each year; which animal species are covered; and what sanctions are applied in case of infringements. A total of 11 countries<sup>14</sup> submitted detailed replies to the survey, the outcome of which is available at the FVE Office.

## Humane trapping standards

### European Parliament rejects draft directive

The European Parliament adopted a resolution backing rapporteur Karin Scheele MEP, and rejected a draft directive on the trapping of certain animal species<sup>15</sup>. The proposed directive was designed to bring EU law into line with international agreements concluded with Russia, Canada and the United States. The rapporteur argued that the draft directive was 'very unsatisfactory' and 'difficult to improve by means of amendments'. In addition, she said, the text lacked any proper scientific basis.

In 1996, the EU concluded two identical agreements on the trapping of certain animal species, first with Russia and Canada and then with the United States. The Council approved the agreements in 1998 but, because national laws continued to differ, the Commission proposed that a directive be

<sup>12</sup> Council directive on the minimum standards for the protection of laying hens 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw\\_opinions/831\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/ahaw/ahaw_opinions/831_en.html)

<sup>14</sup> Austria, Czech republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

<sup>15</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council introducing humane trapping standards for certain animal species, COM(2004) 532 final

adopted to harmonise these laws and thus enable the European Union to comply with these agreements.

However, in June 1997, Parliament condemned by a large majority the agreement concluded with Canada and Russia because it did not take sufficient account of animal welfare and was primarily motivated by trade considerations. The use of the term 'humane' in the title of the directive was strongly contested by some MEPs. It was also queried by the Commission's own Scientific and Veterinary Committee, which maintained that the international agreements do not rule out unacceptable levels of suffering.

Commissioner Stavros Dimas (DG Environment) said the Commission would now have to reflect on the best way of moving forward.

## Public health

### Veterinary public health

#### Making veterinary public health 'sexy'



Michael O'Mahony

'Veterinary public health is not a "sexy" discipline – or career', guest speaker Micheál O'Mahony acknowledged during his presentation on the undergraduate training of VPH. Speaking at the FVE general assembly, he called for 'a different approach'. Chief VPH specialist at the Irish Food Safety Authority, Mr O'Mahony is a former lecturer in veterinary public health and food safety at the Dublin Veterinary School.

The challenge that the undergraduate curricular design faced, he said, was to 'train the meat inspectors of today and the auditors of tomorrow', to a pool of students 'whose priorities rarely include VPH'. Undergraduate teaching in VPH had witnessed a complete overhaul in Dublin, and now included subjects like international trade policies, audits, outbreak investigations, antimicrobial resistance, traceability, inspection practicals, an 'extramural'

experience in approved abattoirs and also covered non-meat foods and non-food hazards. Undergraduates were expected to present case studies (such as 'the risk assessment of feline pets in a household with immunosuppressed people'), and to participate in debates ('should we consume TB reactors?'). These changes had brought about an increased interest among undergraduates for the subject and currently 7% (5/74) of Dublin undergraduates are doing an elective in VPH. 'We need to be proactive, Mr O'Mahony stressed, and emphasize the relevance of VPH to clinical practice. *'To most veterinarians, the image of a colleague active in public health is that of a 'failed' vet, while to the public, the only visible aspects of public health are negative: food poisoning and zoonoses'*. It was essential, he concluded, to *'actively foster the discipline and the role of veterinarians working in public health, and to raise awareness of its relevance among undergraduates, the profession and society'*.

### FVE General Assembly

#### Strategic plan & 'acknowledged' veterinarians

The FVE strategic plan for the coming five years (2006-2010) was unanimously adopted at the meeting. 'We need to develop as a Federation. In particular we must learn to speak with one voice in relation to common goals and to prioritise issues', FVE president Tjeerd Jorna recalled. However, the FVE 'must also ensure that its role and contribution are known, understood and valued' to those outside the Federation. For this reason 'communication' was considered one of the main priorities for the coming years. A mission statement was also coined and adopted: 'FVE unites the European veterinary profession for the benefit of animal health, animal welfare and public health. One profession, one vision, one voice!'

The paper on 'acknowledged veterinarians' presented by the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), was also adopted in Brussels. According to the UEVP, 'acknowledged veterinarians' may be defined as those practitioners who work mainly (>50% of their time) with a certain species and who have obtained 'additional experience and qualifications'. The UEVP stressed that such a system, 'accessible to all practitioners', would be 'totally different' from European specialisation as defined by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), which is mainly discipline-oriented and aimed at a much higher level of expertise. The paper will now be submitted to the European coordinating committee on veterinary training (ECCVT).

Other topics discussed by the general assembly, attended by delegates from 31 countries, included the EU services directive, the evaluation of veterinary schools, the establishment of a list of 'veterinary critically important antimicrobials', updates on medicines and animal welfare legislation, and the 'hygiene package' legislation, due to come into force on 1 January.

The next FVE general assembly will be held in Malaga (Spain), on 19-20 May 2006, while the 2007 spring meeting will be held by Krakow.

#### A new section, a new member and a mission statement

The association of European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI) officially became the fourth FVE section at the FVE General Assembly, held on 18-19 November in Brussels. The board is made up of

President Dr Richard Weilenmann (Switzerland),  
Secretary Dr Ljiljana Markus-Cizelj (Croatia),  
Vice president Dr Henriette Strøm (Denmark),  
Treasurer Dr Jan Bernardy (Czech republic) and  
Mr Peter Nowlan (Ireland).

EVERI currently has 9 national members, and veterinary organisations with an interest to join are invited to contact its secretary ([ljiljana.markus-cizelj@veterina.hr](mailto:ljiljana.markus-cizelj@veterina.hr)).

Another addition to the FVE assembly was the Ukraine Veterinary Association, which was officially welcomed as an observer member and represented by its president Dr Oksana Rut and her colleague Dr Andriy Didukh. There are some 30 000 veterinarians in the Ukraine, of which 18 000 are member of UVA.

Officers of the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists were re-elected for another two-year term, and include Robert Huey (UK) as president



EVERI Board Members (© Karin de Lange)  
Standing persons from left to right: P. Nowlan, L. Markus-Cizelj, H. Stroem, J. Bernardy.  
President: Richard Weilenmann

and Henning Knudsen (Denmark), Paolo Cozzolino (Italy), Jorunn Vormeland (Norway) and Margareta Widell (Sweden). The board of the European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) was also re-elected in its entirety, but with an internal re-shuffle, and Cornelia Rossi-Broy (Germany) had now become president. The other board members for 2005-2007 are Andrew Chrikowksi (UK), Walter Winding (Austria), Hans Petter Brugge (Norway), Bente Pedersen (Denmark) and Miguel Angelo Fernandes (Portugal).

## FVE/TAIEX conference November 2005

### Focus on the free movement of veterinarians

A conference on the free movement of veterinarians in Europe was held on 15-16 November in Brussels, organised jointly by FVE and TAIEX (EU Commission DG Enlargement office for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange). A total of 86 representatives of veterinary professional organisations, academia and competent authorities from the ten new EU Member States as well as from applicant and candidate countries attended the conference. The meeting included presentations on the legal aspects of providing services across borders, the establishment in other countries and the recognition of qualifications were discussed.

An evaluation held after the conference showed that the overwhelming majority of participants greatly appreciated the programme, the speakers and the organisation.

## Education

### Veterinary education

#### First meeting of the ECCVT

The European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) held its first meeting in Brussels on 8 November. The ECCVT, which evolved from the former Joint Policy Committee, now comprises not only members from the FVE and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), but also of the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). The remit of the Committee is to coordinate the policies on veterinary training of its members, including pre- and postgraduate training and professional recognition.



From left, Boyd Jones, Rémi Gellé, Marcel Wanner (EAEVE president), Karin Östensson, Tjeerd Jorna (FVE president), Stefano Romagnoli, Sjeng Lumeij (EBVS president), Frank Gasthuys and Jens Arnbjerg.

Main agenda points of the meeting were: the future veterinary curriculum, final attainment levels and day-1 competences for veterinary graduates, continuing professional development and lifelong learning. Although the Committee recognises that it is no longer possible for new graduates to be competent in every aspect of the veterinary field, it still believes in the value of a broadly based curriculum, stressing the importance of comparative medicine. *'Student should not lose the overview over multiple species'*, it concluded. The ECCVT also discussed the 'Bologna declaration' and the introduction of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in veterinary education. To stimulate a wider debate about these items, both within the profession and with external stakeholders, FVE will organise a seminar in spring 2006.

## Evaluation of veterinary schools

### EAEVE/FVE 'task force' proposes a change in procedures

At the November FVE general assembly, Olivier Glardon (Switzerland) gave an update on the revision of the standing operation procedures (SOP) as defined by the joint task force of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and FVE.

Dr Glardon, member of the task force, informed delegates that, of the 102 schools that were now member of EAEVE, 71 had been evaluated at least once and 38 of these had 'passed' and were currently on the so-called positive list<sup>16</sup>. All schools in EU Member States had been evaluated at least once. He also noted that 62% of non-approved schools were able to obtain increased funding and/or re-building or re-furbishing of their establishment following evaluation. He also recalled that evaluation was compulsory for EAEVE members.

The SOP-revision task force has been looking at ways to establish a transparent, two-step system of evaluation based on quality assessment schemes. Level one would be a 'basic' evaluation, shorter and more focused than the current visitation, and would lead to an approval or conditional approval pending certain improvements. Level two, only available to approved schools, would also look into quality assurance policies, research qualities and structures for life-long learning. Finally, in order to give the FVE/EAEVE 'a stronger position as a recognised evaluation body', Dr Glardon suggested that it should become member of the European Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education.

### Background


In 1986, the European Commission and its Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training (ACVT) established a system for the evaluation of establishments for veterinary training. The primary role of the system is to ensure that the training given in the establishments meets the minimum standard required by Directive 78/1027/EEC. Initially, the system was managed by the European Commission, with the ACVT serving as the interface between the profession and the legislature.

In 1993, the Commission conferred the ACVT mandate for the management of the evaluation system to a Joint Education Committee (JEC) of the EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education) and FVE. The current evaluation system operates on the basis of



Joint Education Committee: From left to right: H. Dietz, P. Bernard, M. Allman (coordinator), J. Williams, B. Zemljic, M. Wanner (chair), P. Horin and H. Rodriguez Martinez.

<sup>16</sup> [www.eaeve.org](http://www.eaeve.org)



a standard operating procedure (SOP). An international team of experts with experience in the main areas of veterinary sciences visits the school and carries out an assessment. The outcome of the assessment goes to the JEC for discussion and final conclusion.

In order to better reflect current legislative and professional needs, EAEVE and FVE set up a task force in 2004, with the remit to develop a proposal for up dating and improving the system, both its contents and the way it operates.

## **FVE Conference on veterinary training: 29-30 March 2006**

### **On evaluation, ‘tracking’ and bachelor/master’s degrees**

FVE will hold a conference on veterinary education for stakeholders and interested parties in Europe in Brussels on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 March 2006. Three main sessions will be held:

The current situation, including the minimum requirements for veterinary training, the recognition of professional qualifications and an update of the evaluation system of veterinary schools

The future needs, including expectations from the public, day 1-competences and undergraduate ‘tracking’

The ‘Bologna declaration’, with background, objectives and possible consequences of the ‘bachelor/master’ system for veterinary training.

Although the dates of the Conference are fixed, detailed programme and further information about registration will be available early January 2006. Interested persons are invited to contact the FVE Office.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **European Food Safety Authority**

#### **Members sought for Scientific Committee and Panels**

A call for expressions of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was published in the Official Journal of the EU of 22 November. Interested scientists should submit their application<sup>17</sup> before 7 January 2006. The EFSA has its permanent seat in Parma, Italy.

<sup>17</sup>See [http://www.efsa.eu.int/opportunities/general\\_advice/catindex\\_en.html](http://www.efsa.eu.int/opportunities/general_advice/catindex_en.html), reference C-289A



### **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

### **Sections:**

UEVP- Practitioners, EASVO-State Officers,  
UEVH-Hygienists, EVERI – Education, Research and Industry

### **Observer**

Ukraine

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