The one-health concept is not new. In the 1960s, the veterinary epidemiologist and parasitologist Dr. Calvin Schwabe coined the phrase "one medicine" and called for a unified approach between veterinary and human medicine to combat zoonotic diseases.

Most of the current emerging diseases are zoonoses and affect both animals and humans. They might be foodborne diseases due to Salmonella or Campylobacter, classic diseases such as tuberculosis or anthrax or "media stars" like Ebola, TSE or recently the High Pathogen Avian influenza (HPAI) with the threat of a global pandemic. Zoonotic pathogens have even been used by bioterrorists!

Globalisation of trade and an increasing and unlimited movement of people contribute to the emergence of new diseases and exacerbate its consequences. Such challenges require a tuned collaboration of veterinary and human medicine and an alliance between health sciences in fields of education, diagnoses, clinical care and disease prevention. Examples of such a collaboration already exist between veterinarians and their counterparts in human medicine, public health, and environmental science, contributing to an enhanced multidisciplinary approach. However, the overall level of collaboration and communication between veterinary and human medicine has been limited and often neglected in recent decades.

Roger K. Mahr, past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is a longstanding advocate of the one-health concept. He presented his vision for a national one-health initiative, uniting veterinary and human medicine, with the goal of improving and protecting animal and public health worldwide. The AVMA issued a resolution on the collaboration between human and veterinary medicine.

In Europe, we face the same challenges and are driven by a legal assignment for such a collaboration in the Zoonoses Directive (2003/99/EC). This will need synergistic strategies and actions of the authorities and scientists concerned. In other words, a strong demand for a one-health concept – and policy!

The one-health initiative underpins the importance and position of the veterinary profession as a Health Profession - a fact which has unfortunately been neglected or even suppressed in some EU member states in recent years. The implementation of the one-health concept will be an important challenge for our Federation in the near future.

Walter Winding, FVE President
Communication reveals EU Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013

The European Commission has published its Animal Health Strategy for the coming 6 years. This document is the result of an evaluation of the current strategy which followed and extensive consultation with stakeholders including FVE.

A Communication on the EU’s animal health strategy for 2007-2013 was adopted by the Commission on 19 September¹. The document outlines the framework for animal health measures over the coming six years, taking into account the feedback from stakeholders as well as potential challenges. Its aim is to put ‘greater focus on precautionary measures, disease surveillance, controls and research’, in order to reduce the incidence of animal disease and minimise the impact of outbreaks. The Communication underlines the responsibilities of all those involved in animal health and highlights the need for an integrated approach in policy-making.

Veterinary services and cost sharing schemes

‘A modern animal health framework’ is identified as one of the four pillars on which the strategy is to be based. One of the ways to achieve this would be ‘a single and clearer regulatory framework’, according to the document. It recalls that animal health is considered a global public good by international organisations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Bank. The EU considers the maintenance of animal health services in line with international standards – in terms of legislation, structure, organisation, resources, capacities, the role of the private sector and paraprofessionals – as a ‘minimum goal’. The strategy document therefore identifies this as ‘a public investment priority’.

This objective fits well with the subtitle of the document ‘Prevention is better than cure’, of which the recent foot and mouth disease outbreaks in the UK are probably a prime example. It is hoped that this will be reflected in adequate funding of the veterinary services throughout the EU.

‘Developing efficient cost and responsibility sharing schemes’ is another cornerstone of such a modern animal health framework, according to the document. Such cost sharing schemes would provide incentives for the prevention of animal related threats, while ‘strengthening Community economy and social cohesion’ and ‘reducing the gaps between levels of animal health in the various regions’. Although no clear guidelines are given to the set-up of such a scheme, a feasibility study is considered necessary ‘to reflect on concrete proposals’.

On-farm biosecurity measures are crucial to improve animal health

Prevention is better than cure: biosecurity and traceability

‘Animal related threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness’, another pillar, highlights the need for good on-farm biosecurity. Successful biosecurity measures should address isolation of new animals brought to the farm, isolation of sick animals, regulation of the movement of people, animals, and equipment, correct use of feed, and procedures for cleaning and disinfecting facilities. The responsibility for these measures lies with the animal owners, including hobby farmers. A collective approach is required. The disease

¹ See http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/animal_health_strategy_en.pdf
status, level of biosecurity, animal welfare and veterinary control are also possible means of rating holdings.

Good animal identification and traceability is put forward as another key to prevention and preparedness, and the mid to long-term should see the creation of a wider, integrated electronic system. Such a ‘unified database’ is to encompass all elements of the current system under certification, animal identification, and animal health and welfare status. The FVE is particularly pleased with this objective, for which it has been lobbying relentlessly.

Promoting research and communication

The import controls on animals and animal products will also be revised, so that official checks target high-risk products and more effective measures are taken to tackle illegal trade. The EU will also focus on boosting communication and cooperation with its trading partners, for a better understanding of EU rules and standards, and to allow more timely warnings when problems arise in products destined for Europe.

The Communication also underlines the importance of promoting scientific research and innovation, working with all relevant partners at different levels to do so. The activities of the European Food Safety Authority in the field of animal health will be increased, and the work of the Community Reference Laboratories re-evaluated. More focus will be put on developing public-private partnerships e.g. for the development of vaccines, and support will be given to third countries to carry out research on exotic and other potentially threatening diseases. The aim is to secure Europe's reputation for scientific excellence in the field of animal health, which will boost consumer confidence and provide the EU with greater standing in international disagreements.

In addition to Animal Health measures, the Commission has proposed to establish a European Centre on Animal Welfare to coordinate and stimulate research in order to upgrade existing standards.

Finally, an Animal Health Advisory Committee will be created, to include representatives from non-governmental organisations across the animal health sector, consumers and governments. This committee is to provide strategic guidance on the appropriate/acceptable level of animal or public health protection, and on priorities for action and communication.

Animal Health involves many different sectors, including environment, agriculture, fisheries, trade, research, enterprise, budget and enlargement, and the Commission intends to take an integrated approach in its policy making for the coming years.

Workshop on Classical Swine Fever in South East Europe

Good Contingency plans and efficiency veterinary services key to eradication

With the support of the Commission, the FVE and the Association of Romanian Veterinarians successfully organised a regional meeting on Classical Swine Fever in Romania

The eradication of Classical Swine Fever is an EU priority, stressed Jean-Pierre Vermeersch, of the European Commission. Although classical swine fever (CSF) is close to eradication in the EU-25, apart from some small areas where the disease is present in the wild boar population, it is still very prominent in Southeast Europe.

Regional approach

As a regional approach is the only approach for a disease without borders, a South East European workshop on CSF control was held in Poiana Braşov (Romania) on 17-18 September. The meeting, attended by over 100 participants, was organised by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe jointly with the Association of Romanian Veterinarians and the Technical Assistance Information Exchange department (TAIEX) of DG Enlargement, European Commission.

CSF is endemic on the whole territory of Romania, with over 800 outbreaks in domestic
pigs reported in 2006\(^2\), and 167 so far in 2007, while Bulgaria notified 7 outbreaks in 2006 and 3 in 2007. Representatives from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia all reported outbreaks in the last 12 months. Several of those countries apply a generalized vaccination programme for all domestic pigs. Most countries indicated wild boar as virus reservoirs and trade (both legal and illegal) as main sources for the outbreaks. Most of the recent CSF outbreaks in Europe were caused by genotype 2, which typically shows a moderate virulence, recalled Dr Sandra Blome of the EU Reference laboratory on CSF in Hanover, Germany. This means that the disease often shows vague symptoms (fever, anorexia) and may go unrecognized and undetected for some period.

Less transport of live animals will contribute to better biosecurity

Prevention ‘cheaper than crisis’

Preparedness and alertness are essential to combat a CSF outbreak. The contingency plans should therefore be drawn up specifying all national measures that need to be taken in case of an outbreak. Realistic simulations should be exercised at least twice a year, according to Dr Petras Maciulskis. All relevant stakeholders – including the media – should be involved in the contingency plan. A clear chain of command should be set up, with the Chief Veterinary Officer as close as possible to the political decision making level.

“Prevention is better than cure – and prevention is cheaper than crisis,” said Gaston Funes (World Organisation for Animal Health, OIE), echoing the motto of the Community Animal Health Strategy (see page 2 and 3 of this newsletter).

Veterinary Services, including official veterinarians and private practitioners, are a “Global Public Good”. They are at the forefront of protecting animal health, welfare and public health. The OIE has developed a Performance Vision and Strategy tool (PVS) for good governance of veterinary services\(^3\). This PVS tool can help evaluating the efficiency of Veterinary Services and their compliance with OIE standards, to help establish investment priorities and improvement programmes.

EU Emergency veterinary team

Expert list updated

The updated list of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team\(^4\), established earlier this year, is now available online. The Team includes experts in the fields of veterinary sciences, virology, wildlife, laboratory testing, risk management and other relevant areas. The experts are on stand-by, ready to respond in animal health situations. From this list of experts, the Commission will select ad hoc team members in the event that a Member State or a third country requires assistance during an animal health emergency.

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\(2\) http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/d10257R7_en.pdf

\(3\) http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_vet_eval_tool.htm

\(4\) established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC, see also http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/cvet_en.htm
New categorisation of countries according to risk

In June, the European Commission adopted a Regulation simplifying and updating EU measures for the categorisation of countries according to their BSE risk. The categorisation of countries is a means of determining the import conditions for live animals, meat and meat products, in order to provide the necessary guarantees for human and animal health.

The Regulation, which amends the TSE Regulation 999/2001, brings the EU categorisation system into line with that of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). It entails listing all countries under one of three headings – negligible BSE risk, controlled BSE risk and undetermined BSE risk – and shaping the trade rules according to each risk category.

Foot and Mouth disease in the UK

Concern increase as recent outbreak seems indicative of an “old” infection

The recent epidemic of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Surrey (UK) has tested the Government’s ability to control this notifiable disease and to follow its contingency plan.

Nick Blayney, president elect of the British Veterinary Association, finds it “particularly worrying” that the lesions found in the later cases were consistent with old infection and that the initial clinical signs had not been identified. Reports from the field are that the signs of illness in the early stages are dramatic but “there is concern that other cases may still be out there – unrecognised.”

Private vets have been involved in many of the suspected cases identified. In many practices, they have been called out by their clients to examine animals in order to rule out FMD.

New cases will only be identified if the farmer or stockman notices signs of disease and reports it to his practitioner or to the veterinary authorities. Government veterinary surgeons have been carrying out examination of livestock in the surveillance zones but the lack of adequate handling facilities upon some of the farms have made this examination very difficult. All the surveillance and control work so far has been carried out by veterinarians of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

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Animal Welfare groups call for urgent action

The EU is not doing enough to protect the health and welfare of animals in transport, according to a joint statement issued by Eurogroup for Animals, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and Animals Angels at a press conference on 26 September. Although the newly launched Animal Health Strategy (see page 2 and 3) makes the commitment to protect the health of animals through good welfare, “it fails to address the well-documented risk of animal movements in the EU. It also ignores the massive scientific evidence linking transport with poor welfare and disease.” The animal welfare groups call on the Commission and Member States to limit both the number and the length that farm animals are transported in the EU and to rigorously enforce the existing rules.

Peter Stevenson, CIWF’s Chief Policy Advisor, noted that over six million farm animals are transported over huge distances across Europe each year. “Packed into overcrowded trucks, animals often suffer terribly during these long journeys from heat, thirst and exhaustion. Many Member States fail to enforce EU legislation designed to safeguard the welfare of animals during transport. This inhumane trade must be ended - animals should be slaughtered near to the farm of rearing; the meat can then be transported to wherever it is wanted.”

At the conference, Dr Alexander Rabitsch, a practitioner and official veterinarian from Austria, gave a presentation on behalf of the FVE. He stressed that transport of animals can lead to serious animal and public health problems, such as the rapid spread of diseases over a large territory – and recalled that one of the reasons given for the rapid spread of 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in the UK was the large scale of animal movements. Furthermore, due to immunosuppression resulting from the stress of transport, animals may be more susceptible to pathogens, or reactivate latent viruses.

The three welfare groups presented a balance sheet of what is happening on the roads, based on evidence from the field and inspection reports. Such illegal practices like injured animals lifted by cranes or pushed by Caterpillars, and frequent beating of exhausted animals are shown in a shocking video, “Forbidden Journeys”.

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For more information, see http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/pressconference.htm
Owners, operators and veterinarians urged to respect non-ambulatory animal welfare

A joint statement by FVE, Compassion in World Farming, Animals’ Angels and Eurogroup for Animals asks actors in the field to comply with the Regulation on Animal Transport regarding non-ambulatory animals

The owners, keepers and transporters of animals as well as veterinarians should be instructed that the transport of non-ambulatory animals (those that are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted) is prohibited by EU law.

This is a joint recommendation of Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), Animals’ Angels, Eurogroup for Animals and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, which found that this prohibition is widely neglected. Numerous slaughterhouses and livestock markets throughout the EU still accept farm animals unable to get up from the vehicle for slaughter or trade, according to the welfare organisations. Such animals are often unloaded by mechanical means (dragging, pulling, pushing) without respect for their welfare. In addition to the pain these animals undergo due to their primary condition (e.g. mastitis, arthritis, ulcers, fractures), they suffer additionally from the often rough handling during loading and unloading, considered “completely unacceptable”.

Animals that are non-ambulatory before the start of the journey or likely to become so during the journey should not be transported. Instead, they should receive appropriate veterinary treatment or undergo emergency killing. Transporters should be instructed that animals that fall ill or are injured during transport should be separated from other animals and receive first-aid treatment or undergo humane emergency killing as soon as possible.

Slaughterhouse operators, livestock market operators and veterinarians should be instructed, not to accept non-ambulatory animals. They should ensure that those animals are killed humanely on the vehicle immediately after arrival. In case of illegal transport, official veterinarians should make sure that appropriate sanctions are imposed.

7 Article 6 paragraph 3 and Article 8 paragraph 1 in connection with Annex I Chapter I number 2 lit. a) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport
New regulation to ban the import of dog and cat fur into the EU

Political agreement was reached on European level over a ban on imports of dog and cat furs this summer, after several rounds of negotiations. The ban “is a clear declaration of support for animal protection in the European Union”, according to Horst Seehofer, German Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. Several EU Member States had called upon the Commission to prepare a proposal for a ban on these imports. A recent television documentary broadcast in a number of Member States had reported on the killing of dogs and cats for their fur and meat in Asian countries. The documentary stated that European Union Member States were among those importing dog and cat furs from these Asian countries.

The Regulation will come into force on 31.12.2008.

Salmonella present in nearly one in four broiler flocks

A survey on the levels of Salmonella detected in broiler flocks across the EU in 2005-6, published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), showed that Salmonella was present in almost 1 in 4 flocks (23.7%)8.

Based on these results, the European Commission will now set an EU-wide reduction target in broiler flocks for two of the Salmonella types (S. enteritidis and S. typhimurium) for a transitional three-year period. The EFSA Zoonoses Task Force, who compiled the survey, also recommends action at national level to reduce other types of Salmonella with an impact on public health as well as consumer education campaigns. Finally it urges to strictly implement the EU food hygiene legislation in mass catering to increase consumer protection.

Detection levels in flocks varied significantly between Member States with Salmonella being found in 0% to 68.2% of national flocks. S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium were detected in approximately 40% of Salmonella-positive flocks.

Chicken meat from broilers is linked to many food poisoning cases of Salmonella in Europe.

According to national figures revealed by EFSA’s 2005 zoonoses report, up to 18% of fresh chicken meat samples were contaminated with Salmonella.

The risk of genetically modified animal feed to consumers

Recombinant DNA broken down by digestion, reassures EFSA

There is no reason to worry about consuming products from animals that were fed genetically modified feed, according to the European Food Safety Authority. In a recent statement, it traces the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in meat, milk and eggs from such animals.

The 8-page document concludes that, ‘biologically active genes and proteins are common constituents of foods and feed, in varying amounts. After ingestion, a rapid degradation into short DNA or peptide fragments is observed in the gastrointestinal tract of animals and humans’. And it reassures the consumer by confirming that, to date, ‘a large number of experimental studies with livestock have shown that recombinant DNA fragments or proteins derived from GM plants have not been detected in tissues, fluids or edible products of farm animals like broilers, cattle, pigs or quails.’

It is estimated that up to 80 - 90 percent of world soybean exports contain material from GM plants (Soy meal is the single most important animal feed in the EU, accounting for 55 percent of protein-rich animal feed).

Food Safety Science

EFSA and FDA strengthen cooperation

In July, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) signed the first U.S./European agreement in the area of assessing food safety risk.

This is the first formal international cooperation agreement EFSA has signed and the first formal step in cooperation between the two bodies. The agreement aims to facilitate the sharing of confidential scientific and other information between EFSA and the FDA, such as methodologies to ensure that food is safe. A formal agreement ensures appropriate protection of such confidential information under the applicable legal frameworks in both the US and the EU. Informal cooperation and dialogue have already been established between the two bodies; this agreement will enable these to be formalized and extended. EFSA will be looking to develop similar working arrangements with other authorities world wide in the coming years.

Food safety controls

Nearly half of rapid alert notifications concern imports rejected at EU border

About 45% of notifications to the EU’s Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) in 2006 concerned products from third countries which were blocked at the border by EU control authorities when the risks were identified. The category for which the most alerts were sent was fishery products (20%), followed by meat and meat products (12%) and cereals and bakery products (11%).

The RASFF report breaks down the overall number of notifications in 2006 into alert (934) and information (1989) notifications. Alert notifications are sent when the food or feed...
presenting the risk is already on the market and immediate action is required. Among the risks most reported through these alerts were the presence of potentially pathogenic microorganisms, heavy metals (such as mercury in fish) and mycotoxins.

Information notifications are sent when a risk has been identified but immediate action by other Member States is not necessary as the product has not reached their market e.g. consignments stopped at the borders. Most information notifications (75%) were on products originating in third countries, and 40% of these related to mycotoxins (e.g. aflatoxins in nuts).

For more information, see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/rapidalert/index_en.htm

### Medicines

#### Feline injection site sarcoma

**Need for improved pharmacovigilance, a harmonised definition and increased awareness**

On 9 July, the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) organised a focus group meeting with stakeholders about fibrosarcoma in cats occurring at sites of injection (feline injection site sarcoma, FISS). The meeting brought together 19 invited experts from clinical practices, industry and research as well as members of the Pharmacovigilance, Immunologicals and Efficacy working parties of the EMEA Committee for medicinal products for veterinary use (CVMP).

The focus group meeting was held as part of the continued surveillance of injection site sarcoma in cats and is a follow-up to an advisory notice to veterinary surgeons on the same topic issued by the CVMP in 2003¹⁰.

The aim of the meeting was to provide an update of the situation and to share information and the latest knowledge on FISS. It also aimed at evaluating the current CVMP advisory note and to recommend whether the precautionary principle should be applied to feline vaccines.

All agreed that the risk for cats to develop fibrosarcoma of any origin, a rare but serious pathology, has not increased and remains very low (less than 0.1%).

**Injection site: avoid the intrascapular location**

The link between FISS and vaccination could not be demonstrated, and even if there was any evidence of such an event, this would not justify putting an end to vaccination in cats as the benefits outweigh the risks. On the other hand, vaccination schemes should be reviewed, requiring more information from the industry on the duration of immunity.

But the infection sites should also be reconsidered. Contrary to what may still be common practice in certain parts of Europe, the experts stressed that subcutaneous injections between the shoulder blades should be avoided whatever the substance. Furthermore, practitioners are advised not to rush into the surgery for the removal of all skin lumps appearing after vaccination.

Finally, it was recommended that efforts should be made to report such sarcomas. The group also supported joint efforts aimed at increasing the awareness among the veterinary profession, including veterinary pathologists, about the occurrence and nature of injection site sarcoma as well as efforts to promote reporting through the pharmacovigilance system. The group emphasised the need for a specific and harmonised definition of FISS as an essential first step to improved surveillance and reporting. It was also decided not to use the precautionary principle by adding a mention of the FISS risk on the summary of product characteristics (SCP) of feline vaccines in order not to frighten cat owners and to safeguard the well-known benefits of vaccination.

It was the first time that veterinary practitioners were invited to join the focus group. They were represented by the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (Christophe Buhot) and the European Society of Feline Medicine (Myra Forster-van Hijfte).

Education

Higher education bill

US Senate addresses shortage of public health veterinarians

The US Senate has unanimously approved the Higher Education Authorization bill, which includes the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Act. This act will address the shortage of veterinarians that the nation is facing by creating a new competitive grant program that will allow veterinary colleges to expand their training programs for public health professionals.

The Higher Education Authorisation Bill will also improve overall public health preparedness by increasing the number of veterinarians in the workforce.

“Veterinarians are the first line of defence in protecting human health through the early detection and response to unusual disease events that could be linked to emerging infectious diseases, or other bio-threat agents of concern,” said Senator Allard, who sponsored the bill. “As a veterinarian myself, I know that veterinary medicine is an integral and indispensable component of America’s public health system.”

Over the past decade, the world has faced a significant increase in newly emerging infectious disease outbreaks, including West Nile virus, SARS, monkeypox, and avian influenza. “The nation’s veterinary medical colleges do not have the resources necessary to meet the needs for veterinarians that are vital to maintain public health preparedness;” he added.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) projects that demand for food supply veterinarians will increase by 12% to 13% between now and 2016, which would leave a shortfall of 4% to 5% per year, equating to only 96 out of every 100 available food supply veterinarian jobs being filled.

The Act authorizes over $1.5bn in grants to be appropriated to US veterinary colleges, $300m of which has been slated for fiscal 2007.
FVE & Professional matters

Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

Joe Collins, new FEEVA president

The Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) elected a new board at its general assembly in Edinburgh on 12 September, held at the occasion of the annual congress of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA). Joe Collins (Ireland) replaced Alistair Barr (UK) as president of the new FEEVA board, with Michael Duê (Germany) as treasurer, Marco Eleuteri (Italy) as secretary, and Dominik Burger (Switzerland), Gábor Bodó (Hungary) and Josh Slater (UK) as board members.

During its meeting, the FEEVA discussed various topics including the identification of horses, the control of infectious equine anaemia, the services directive, the availability of veterinary medicines and rules on the keeping and transport of horses.

The next GA will be held in January in Venice, on the occasion of the European equine meeting of the year, the congress of the SIVE (Italian Equine Veterinary Society).11

Joe Collins, new President of FEEVA, at work

FVE ‘One Health’ Reception

FVE strives to strengthen the relation between human and animal medicine

On the 3rd of October the FVE president, Walter Winding, welcomed guests from the European Parliament, the Commission, permanent representations and other external relations to the FVE “One Health” reception. With this event FVE wishes to underline the strong relations between animal health and public health. “Clear examples are diseases like bird flu, mad cow disease or rabies, but there are many more. What to think of West Nile encephalitis, Q fever or Lyme disease. Moreover, the majority of emerging diseases like AIDS, SARS and Ebola originates from animals. One should also not forget diseases transmitted through food from animal origin contaminated with bacteria like Salmonella or Campylobacter or other health hazards related to the quality of food”, Dr winding explained. The veterinary profession is active in the fields of animal health and welfare but equally strongly involved and committed to public health. We strive to strengthen the relation between human and animal medicine. FVE’s goal for the future is: “one world, one health” he concluded.

From left to right Walter Winding (FVE President), Robert Huey (UEVH President), Nick Blayney (BVA President), Avril Doyle (MEP, Ireland)

11 http://cms.sive.it/XIV/abstracts_en.pdf
Veterinary profession to be covered by Directive, according to handbook on implementation

The Service Directive was adopted end 2006, and should be implemented by 28 December 2009 at the latest. To achieve its objectives, full and timely transposition of the Services Directive is essential, which is why the Commission published a “handbook on implementation”, to provide Member States with assistance in applying the Directive.

The handbook, available in all official languages, clearly states that the veterinary profession falls within the scope of the Services Directive.

Amongst others, the handbook gives detailed explanations regarding:

* The point of single contact for all formalities relating to the exercise of service activities (including those related to the recognition of professional qualifications)
* The distinction between establishment and provision of services - it needs to be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account not only the duration but also the regularity, periodicity and continuity of the provision of services
* The authorisation scheme, relating to the formal decision of the competent authorities allowing access to a service activity. The handbook points out that authorisation schemes can often be simply abolished or replaced by less restrictive means “such as a simple declaration by the service provider”. Schemes or procedures that are not justified or discriminatory should be reported to the Commission.
* The relation between Services Directive and the one on Professional Recognition, in particular regarding cross-border service provision.

* The codes of conduct: The handbook stresses the importance that professional organisations reach agreement between themselves at European level on a common set of rules, specific to the respective profession or service sector, which will ensure an equal level of protection of recipients and a high quality of services throughout the EU.

Date for diaries
16 – 17 November 2007

FVE General Assembly in Brussels

The FVE will hold its general assembly on 16-17 November next in Brussels.

Following last year’s format, three workshops will be held during the meeting: “One health”; the role of the veterinarian in the environment; and competition. Conclusions and recommendations from the workshops will be presented to the GA on Saturday morning.

The Statutory Bodies Working Party will meet on Wednesday 14 November and the FVE Sections (UEVP, UEVH, EASVO and EVERI) will hold their general assemblies on Thursday 15 November.
Meetings

Vancouver, 27-31 July 2008

29th World Veterinary Congress to be held in Canada

Planning is well under way for the 29th World Veterinary Congress 2008 in Vancouver, Canada, with the theme ‘Celebrate our diversity’, in recognition of the variation and multitude of veterinary professionals. The Scientific Program Committee is currently putting the finishing touches on a multi-track, multi-discipline programme. The two major tracks are the Clinical Practice/Private Practice track and a Public Practice/Public Health track, in collaboration with the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health).

Cairo, 20-22 October 2008

Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

The Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare will be held in Cairo, Egypt on 20-22 October 2008. Working sessions will focus on the following key topics:
- Raise awareness of the OIE Animal Welfare standards
- Give practical information and technical advice on setting national standards
- Encourage national Veterinary Services to take responsibility for animal welfare
- Help Veterinary Services, especially those in developing countries, to put the OIE standards to work
- Strengthen approaches to teaching of Animal Welfare in veterinary and agriculture faculties
- Launch a discussion on additional standard-setting needs and achievements

FVE
The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of veterinary organisations from 37 European countries, regulated by the law on international societies in Belgium.

Members
Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYR of Macedonia, 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
EASVO-State Officers, EVERI – Education, Research and Industry, UEVH-Hygienists, UEVP-Practitioners

Observers
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