



**Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe**

**Newsletter December 2007**

## **Animal Health in the European Union**

*“Where prevention is better than cure”*

With the launch of the Animal Health Strategy 2007 - 2013, the EU Commission has, for the first time, set out its strategic aims and objectives for animal health for the next six years. Prioritisation of EU-intervention, a modern animal health framework, prevention and crisis preparedness and, further stimulation and coordination of science and research, are the ‘four pillars’ on which the strategy is based. The Strategy will cover all animals kept in the EU for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment and in zoos. It also covers wild animals and animals used in research where there is a risk of transmitting diseases to other animals or humans. An important feature of the Strategy is the concept that animal health does not only cover the absence of disease in animals, but also the critical relationship between the health of animals and their welfare.

There is no doubt that the Commission’s role in the protection of animal health and welfare and in public health has become increasingly successful over the years. Nevertheless, the initiative to shift from series of interrelated policy actions to defining a strategy and identifying long-term goals is very much welcomed. Within FVE we particularly agree with the title of the strategy-paper “Prevention is better than cure”. In our view this not only applies to infectious diseases but also to other health problems, such as lameness or genetic disorders. Well-organised and adequately funded and supported Veterinary Services are essential in all these different areas.

The process of priority setting and rethinking our responsibilities will give the opportunity to have fundamental discussions about our relations to animals. What is to be considered as a sound relationship? How far will we go in adapting animals to our wishes or do we need to adjust our wishes? What about the risks: what can be considered as acceptable? And for the finances, will it be enough to look for alternative cost-sharing modalities or do we need to entirely reassess the necessary investments? These questions illustrate that it will not be easy to find sustainable solutions. Moreover, where the Commission has identified overarching goals, it will be up to the Member States to decide on the policies and to implement them. Hopefully they will be as courageous and not shy away from difficult but necessary decisions.

However, the most important decision has been taken and that is to go ahead. The train has left the station. And now, to quote Commissioner Kyprianou, “all those with an interest in animal health will have their role to play and responsibilities to fulfill in optimizing performance and results”. As FVE, it is our goal to be an efficient and constructive partner in the further development and implementation of the Animal Health Strategy, in the interest of the health and well being of animals and people.

With this objective in mind, I wish you all a merry Christmas and good “health and well being” for 2008!

Jan Vaarten,  
FVE Executive Director



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## Animal Health

### Community Animal Health Strategy

#### Biosecurity guidelines and disease prioritisation

“Prevention is better than cure” is the catchphrase of the new Community Animal Health Strategy<sup>1</sup> (CAHS), outlined by Eric Marin (European Commission, DG Sanco) at the recent joint meeting of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), the European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) and the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists (UEVH) in November. The strategy not only implies a reinforced risk based approach on import controls, but also improved on-farm biosecurity. “Good practice guidelines for each farming sector would be drawn up by veterinarians and farmers together”. E. Marin also stressed that biosecurity “is not just for farmers but also for veterinarians” and “also applies to the sheep and cattle sector”.

Regarding cost-sharing schemes, he explained that diseases would be listed according to priority and public relevance, to be reflected in the funds made available for their control. The responsibility of the farmer or the industry as a whole would also need to be assessed, and linked to the share of public funding. “Brucellosis, for example, is mainly a problem at farm-level. However, as it remains a public health concern, it could imply that a low percentage of the costs could be expected to be paid for by public funds; the rest would be borne by the farmer or the sector”. As for Foot and mouth disease, “where there is a high public relevance and action remains mainly in hand of public bodies”, a majority of the cost would come from public funds – the EU share which could depend on solidarity principles and the latest audit reports of the Food and Veterinary Office.

He also announced the creation of an Animal Health Advisory Committee, a group of stakeholders that would monitor progress and give strategic guidance to the Commission, for example on disease priorities. The veterinary profession, represented by FVE, should play an

“active role” in this committee, Mr Marin concluded.

“The FVE is pleased with the shift from interrelated policy actions to long-term goals and strategy, and welcomes the perspective of an Animal Health Law, recognised Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive Director, speaking at the federation’s general assembly. FVE supports the strategy that aims for adequately funded veterinary services, improved biosecurity, efficient reporting systems and long-term farm health management programmes. However, it is concerned about long distance transport “and its potential contribution to disease outbreaks and poor animal welfare.” The federation is also concerned about the fact that the strategy seems to focus on non-sustainable, large volume-low cost production systems. “In order to remain competitive, Europe should invest in high quality, welfare-friendly animal products”, he added.



FVE supports the Community animal health strategy, in particular its aims for adequately funded veterinary services, improved biosecurity, efficient reporting systems and long-term farm health management programmes

The Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), in its draft opinion by L. Nielsen of 14 November, stresses that “veterinary border controls should be based on an overall assessment of the actual risk and should include spot checks, in order to deter illegal trading”. Regarding disease control, it recalls the dangers of (re)emerging diseases, and suggests that “the EU should give greater priority to prevention and combating such threats both within the EU and internationally”. As for the proposed cost-sharing system, ECOSOC underlines “it is crucial that the incentive to report immediately any suspicions about or cases of disease outbreaks is not delayed by uncertainty about the reimbursement of direct and indirect costs”.

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/index_en.htm)

## European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health

### Action Plan to focus on vaccines and diagnostics

The European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH) officially launched its Action Plan on 14 November, in the presence of EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik.

The Action Plan aims to “*facilitate and accelerate the development of tools for the control of major animal diseases*”. It also proposes key areas for EU funding for animal health research in the next ten years to help prevent and treat diseases for which no product is currently available. Its current focus is on vaccines and diagnostics.



From left: Paul De Winter (COPA-COGECA), Declan O'Brian (IFAH), Commissioner Janez Potocnik and Jan Vaarten (FVE) at the official launch of the Action Plan.

A key feature of the plan is a disease prioritisation model that will list diseases by their impact for society, based on parameters such as its relevance on human and animal health, or the ability of the disease to spread and food security. The collection of disease information will help to predict the possible impact of new diseases such as zoonoses, i.e. those diseases that are spread from animals to people, of which West Nile Virus and Rift Valley Fever are potentially fatal.

The Action Plan reflects the views of a wide range of stakeholders including the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), national governments, academia, farmers, the animal health industry and veterinarians (FVE). Jan Vaarten, Executive Director of the FVE, is member of the ETPGAH executive board.

## The impact of climate change on human and animal health

### Surveillance, networking and early warning “a high priority”

It is no surprise: the emergence of infectious diseases worldwide is emphasised by the climate instability. “*Surveillance, including networks and early warning systems, is the only feasible way to protect human and animal health in the view of climate change*”, concluded professor Vincenzo Caporale (IZS, Italy), current president of the OIE scientific committee on animal disease, “*in particular since the understanding of the climate link to ecosystems and infectious diseases is not solid yet*”. Speaking at the workshop ‘Climate changes and animal infectious diseases – how to limit potential risk?’, held in Luxembourg, last 24 October, he stressed that therefore “*strengthening networks of veterinary organization at national and international level*” should be a high priority for optimal risk analysis.

The workshop was organised by the European Commission (DG SANCO) and attended by Nancy De Briyne (FVE deputy executive director). Tackling climate change will be an integral part of the Commission's priorities.

“*Care about the environment and think about sustainability in every decision you make*” was also one of the recommendations of the workshop on the role of the veterinarian in environment, held during the FVE General Assembly last November. The full report of the workshop can be obtained from the FVE Staff.

## Pet Travel Scheme

### UEVP stresses the importance of reliable identification

Regarding the Pet Travel scheme, the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP) agrees with the extension to the transitional period for the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Malta and recommends that this should be for at least a further 2 years, while the impact of cross border transmission of disease is further assessed.

The topic was discussed by the recent UEVP general assembly, which also found that the waiting time for the proof of adequate antibody levels after rabies vaccination could be reduced from 6 to 3 months. According to UEVP vice president Harvey Locke, correct prevention of *Echinococcus multilocularis* and tick borne disease remains recommendable, although the time interval of treatment prior to transnational departure could be increased to 24h - 7 days (currently 24-48 hours) *“in order to help avoid confusion and reduce discomfort for travellers”*.



All microchipped pets should be registered in a central database, together with registration of all pet passports.

The UEVP also stressed the importance of reliable identification of pets, and recommended the immediate withdrawal of tattoos as official identification method, in particular since there is no internationally recognised standard and no data exchange within the EU. *“This means two animals could easily bear the same tattoo, stressed Harvey Locke “Many countries even don’t have an authority able to allocate the*

*numbers”*. Furthermore, there is no definition of the word “tattoo”. The UEVP urges the Commission to propose compulsory registration of all microchipped pets on a central database, together with registration of all pet passports.

## Electronic Identification

### Compulsory microchipping of sheep and goats in the EU

On 16 November, the Commission adopted a report and a proposal on the introduction of mandatory electronic identification (microchipping) for sheep and goats throughout the EU. Microchipping is the essential tool to allow individual traceability of small ruminants, which is important for ensuring animal health and food safety.

In 2003, Member States agreed that the principle of individual traceability of small ruminants should be established in the EU. At the time, however, electronic tagging systems were not yet sufficiently developed for this to be feasible. It was therefore agreed that research into and development of individual electronic tagging should proceed, with a view to it being introduced as soon as possible.

In the report, the Commission outlines the results of pilot projects and affirms that electronic identification could now be effectively implemented throughout the EU. In line with the conclusions of the report, the implementation of mandatory electronic identification is envisaged by the end of 2009.



Microchipping of small ruminants is expected to become compulsory by end 2009.

## Animal Welfare

### Animal welfare during transport

#### Only 30% compliance with Regulation, according to inspector

The welfare of animals during transport is poor – and the situation is getting worse, according to Alexander Rabitsch, an Austrian practitioner and part-time animal transport inspector since 1998. At the recent meeting of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), he shared his experience of the over 1000 spot-check inspections he had carried out in “*one of Europe’s bottlenecks of animal transport*”. Only around 30% of the vehicles comply with EU regulations, he found, “*and the situation is getting worse*”.

The majority of shortcomings involved animal welfare, and mainly concern inappropriate drinking facilities for calves, excessive loading densities of pigs and lambs and inadequate partitioning between horses. Following this presentation, amply documented with statistics and photographs, the UEVP and European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) drew up a joint recommendation, which called for a more stringent enforcement of the existing Regulation. Furthermore, the sections recommended an urgent review of the Regulation to improve certain requirements, including loading densities, drinking facilities and the definition of journey time.

FVE has urged for many years that fattening of animals should take place within or near the place of birth. According to the Federation, animals should also be slaughtered as near to the point of production as possible, while long distance transportation of animals for slaughter should be replaced by a carcass-only trade whenever possible. (FVE/01/doc/043).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/aw/position\\_papers/01\\_043.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/aw/position_papers/01_043.pdf)

## Laboratory animals

### Statistics published on experimental animals used in the EU

The total number of animals used for experiments in the EU in 2005 was 12.1 million, according to the latest EU report of the statistics of laboratory animals<sup>3</sup>.

As in previous years, by far the biggest group of animals used was rodents and rabbits representing more than three-quarters (78%) of all animals used. As in 2002, no Great Apes (gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, bonobos) were used in experiments in the EU in 2005. About one third of animals (33%) were used for fundamental research, another third for the research and development for human and animal health. The rest included animals used for the production and quality control of medical products (15%, of which 3.5% for the veterinary field), toxicological evaluation of products (8%), diagnostic purposes (2%) and education (1.6%).

Since the report includes data from the 10 new Member States it is not possible to draw direct comparisons with the results of the previous reports (1996, 1999, 2002).

## Community Funding

### New Eurobarometer on animal cloning

Mid-November, the Commission published a decision<sup>4</sup> concerning the Community financial contribution towards certain measures in the field of animal health and welfare. The two most important measures are the organisation of a Eurobarometer survey on the possible use of animal cloning in the agro-food sector and a study on temperatures under which animals are transported over long journeys.

<sup>3</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/staff\\_work\\_doc\\_sec1455.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/staff_work_doc_sec1455.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l\\_305/l\\_30520071123en00520053.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_305/l_30520071123en00520053.pdf)

## Public Health

### Audit frequencies in cutting plants

#### FVE hygiene working group presents results of European survey

Until 2006, the EU required the daily presence of an official veterinarian in cutting plants whenever fresh meat was being processed. Last year, this requirement was replaced by an audit system under the legislation of the so-called Hygiene Package, in particular Regulation 854/2004<sup>5</sup>. According to this Regulation, the frequency of inspection should be risk based. The FVE hygiene working group held a survey among FVE members regarding the actual implementation of this requirement and to compare the audit frequencies.

Twenty FVE members replied, of which 18 EU Member States. Most indicated that a risk-based procedure had been implemented. *“Audit frequencies varied greatly, reports Henning Knudsen, president of the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists, “ranging from less than four to more than ten audits per year, as did the duration of the audits.”* One Member State indicated it set a total number of hours to be spent annually on audits per establishment. Thirteen respondents (65%) announced the audit in advance while three (15%) did not and four gave no information. According to the Hygiene package, the audits should be unannounced, but with a possibility to announce.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption



Audit frequencies in Europe ranged from less than four to more than ten audits per year, according to a survey of the FVE hygiene working group

### Implementing the new food hygiene regulations

#### Workshop underlines key role of veterinarian

*“The veterinarian should remain the key figure in food hygiene, stressed Horst Schnellhardt MEP. Speaking at a workshop in the European Parliament on the implementation of the Hygiene Package, organised by Demeter International on 7 November, he also recalled that “official authorities and veterinarians should focus on consultancy for food business operators.”*<sup>6</sup>

The workshop addressed the opportunities and risks of the new hygiene regulations, the effects and limitations of normative procedures regarding consumer protection and food safety, and how to stimulate new concepts in consumer protection policies.

While participants welcomed the hygiene package as a flexible tool for consumer protection, most saw problems arising due to regional and national differences in the implementation of the legislation. The meeting was attended by Members of the European Parliament (Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Horst Schnellhardt), of the Commission (including Willem Daelman, DG Sanco) and by different stakeholders, including the FVE (represented by Nicole Schreiner).

<sup>6</sup> See also Horst Schnellhardt's position paper on the role of veterinarians in food hygiene (in German): <http://www.schnellhardt-europa.de/pdf/tierarzt.pdf>

## Summit on food safety to celebrate EFSA's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary

A Scientific Forum and Summit on Food Safety was organised on 20-22 November in Brussels by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), to mark the first five years since the agency was created.

Professor Patrick Wall, Chair of the EFSA Management Board said: “EFSA has now become established as Europe’s independent food authority that puts the consumer first, with its work underpinned by the scientific risk assessments of independent experts.” To date, EFSA has produced over 450 scientific risk assessments on a wide variety of topics.

The Summit provided an opportunity for key decision makers and actors in the EU food safety system (including FVE), to reflect on experience gained over the past five years and to consider a number of recommendations for the years ahead. The Scientific Forum covered scientific issues from chemical and biological risks, to animal welfare, cloning and nanotechnology.



Patrick Wall, chair of management board of the European Food Safety Authority, which celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Jointly organised meeting by FAO, WHO and OIE

### Stakeholders meeting on critically important antimicrobials

“There is a need for an integrated strategy for animal health and human health” regarding critically important antimicrobials and the development of resistance against these drugs. This was the main conclusion of the stakeholder meeting held in Rome on 26 November, on the eve of the joint FAO/WHO/OIE7 Expert Consultation on Critically Important Antimicrobials.

“Risk management measures should be based on risk assessment”, stressed Essedine Boutrif (FAO), who chaired the meeting, while measures should only be taken after impact assessment on animal and human health. The stakeholders also identified a need for further data on the development of antimicrobial resistance and on its effect on public health world-wide, taking into consideration that “transmission of antimicrobial resistance can go both ways”, from animals to people and vice versa. Furthermore, animal husbandry practices should be taken into account for a better understanding of the development of antimicrobial resistance in veterinary medicine.



<sup>7</sup> FAO = Food and Agriculture Organisation; WHO = World Health Organisation; OIE = World Organisation of Animal Health

The veterinary profession was represented by Herbert Schneider (Past-President World Veterinary Association and Chair of the OIE ad hoc group for antimicrobial resistance) and Jan Vaarten (FVE). They emphasised the need for a broad range of veterinary products and stressed the role of the veterinary profession in the prudent use of veterinary medicinal products. They recommended co-ordinated programs to educate human and animal health professionals in this field. Monitoring and surveillance programs and further research on the mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance are basic elements for a rational and practical strategy.

The Expert consultation (26-30 November) considered the WHO and OIE lists of critically important antimicrobials in order to find an appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health considerations, taking into account the overlap of the two lists. OIE, through its *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance, had organised a world-wide consultation and issued a list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance, adopted by the OIE General Session last May.

## European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines

### Framework for ‘best practices’ for antimicrobial use

*“All parties should work together to ensure safe use and to minimise the development of resistance”*, according to the document “Best practice framework for the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals in the EU”<sup>8</sup>, which was discussed at the latest meeting of the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA), on 26 October. The Platform, established in 2005, represents the interests of farmers (COPA/COGECA), the animal health industry (IFAH-Europe), the European initiative for sustainable development in agriculture (EISA) and the veterinary profession (FVE).

The aim of the document is to contribute to the continued effectiveness of antimicrobials by providing a framework for ‘best practice’, with *“as little as possible, as much as necessary”* as guiding principle. The document can be adapted to the specific requirements of a Member State.

A second EPRUMA stakeholder workshop is planned for early 2008 to discuss the results of the antimicrobials framework as adopted by the organisations involved in the food chain. It will also address new points for action such as vaccines.



**“As little as possible, as much as necessary” is a guiding principle with respect to the use of antimicrobials**

<sup>8</sup>[http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/vetmed/position\\_papers/fve\\_06\\_11\\_1\\_epruma\\_best\\_practice\\_framework\\_use\\_antimicrobials\\_farm\\_animals.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/vetmed/position_papers/fve_06_11_1_epruma_best_practice_framework_use_antimicrobials_farm_animals.pdf)

## Education

### Implications of the Bologna declaration

#### The veterinary and other 'sectoral' professions face common concerns

The implications of the Bologna declaration on the 'sectoral professions' (architects, dentists, doctors, lawyers, notaries, pharmacists and veterinarians) were discussed at a meeting held on 8 October. Organised by the European University Association, representing 800 universities in 46 countries, the meeting was attended by representatives of all professional and academic organisations of the professions concerned. Veterinarians were represented by Marcel Wanner, of the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and Nancy De Briyne, FVE Deputy Executive Director.

The dominant view (doctors, dentists, architects, veterinarians) was that the long integrated qualification should be retained, for a number of reasons: there is no evident demand from students or employers for large-scale access to the labour market after a 3-4 year Bachelor programme; any compromise of health and safety must be resisted and there is a danger that the Master component of a 2-cycle qualification will not attract public funding.



Bachelor degrees should only be academic and not professional degrees, according to the 'sectoral' professions.

A main concern for sectoral professions was the introduction of the new Committee of recognition of professional qualifications, replacing the previous Advisory Committee, which left "*far too little room for professional input*", according to Nancy De Briyne.

Participants found that even though the Bologna declaration is intended as a tool for the harmonisation of the European area of higher education, it has actually increased disparity in Europe.

In addition, FVE expressed its concern related to the number of veterinary faculties that have been evaluated and found deficient of the minimum training requirements and the inactivity of the Commission to follow this up. The Commission representative at the meeting advised to start an official complaint procedure.

### Continuing education

#### UEVP confirms 'hour' unit and adopts coefficient principle

The hour has been confirmed as the official unit of Continuing Education (CE) by the general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), on 15 November.

Furthermore, the UEVP adopted the use of two coefficients, with which the hours dedicated to CE could be increased, to give more 'value' to highly interactive education or to those with a high level of 'control'. The learning coefficient would depend on the type of learning (e.g. higher for wet labs than for simple conference attendance) while the control coefficient would give value to the level of control (higher for qualifying exams than for no proof of gained knowledge). For example, a 2-hour evening conference without 'control' will gain just 2 hours, while an 8-hour training course could allow gaining 13 'hours' or more, if it included wet labs and practical demonstrations.

## FVE & Professional matters

### FVE General Assembly

#### ‘One health’ high on the agenda

“One health” – *“the integrated approach of veterinary and human medicine”* – was announced as a top priority for the profession by FVE president Walter Winding at the recent FVE general assembly, held in Brussels on 16-17 November. Both animal health and its impact on public health were prominent on the agenda.

*“Animal and human disease should be seen as ‘one health’”,* agreed guest speaker Professor Roel Coutinho of the Dutch Public Health Institute (RIVM), recalling that most emerging diseases are zoonoses. He described the identification of an MRSA outbreak in the Netherlands that could be traced back to pigs, with a survey showing that 25% of pig farmers were infected with the pig-related MRSA strain. *“Many of our human health problems are linked to animals and animal products”,* he concluded, calling for a coordinated response across the veterinary and human health sector.

‘Can we afford not to be involved?’ was the question discussed by the ‘One health’ workshop held during the FVE general assembly. *“We as a profession ARE involved”,* stressed Robert Huey (UK), who co-chaired the workshop, *“and we have a role in enthusing our colleagues and undergraduates”*. The veterinary profession has a major contribution to make to the ‘one health’ debate, the workshop had found. *“We as vets not only have a better understanding of animal husbandry, comparative medicine, disease control and epidemiology in general, but we are the only profession with an understanding of the entire food chain”*. Other workshops debated regulation and deregulation of the profession, and the role of the veterinarian in the environment.

*“One health”* was also a global veterinary priority, said Tjeerd Jorna, past FVE president. He furthermore advocated a stronger professional representation worldwide in the fields of animal health and welfare, public health, the responsible use of medicines and education.

Other topics discussed at the FVE general assembly included statutory bodies, the Services

Directive, the responsible use of medicines, welfare and labelling. The spring 2008 GA will be held in Vienna, from 5 to 7 June.

At the meeting, three FVE sections announced their board election results for 2007-2009:

#### • EASVO

Cornelia Rossi Broy (Germany) - president, Andrew Chirkowski (UK), Bente Petersen (Denmark), Emar Gemmeke (Netherlands), Morgan Lyons (Ireland), Miguel Angelo Fernandes (Portugal).

#### • UEVH

Henning Knudsen (Denmark) – president, Sergio Rodeia (Portugal), René Lesuis (Netherlands), Paolo Cozzolino (Italy), Robert Huey (UK).

#### • EVERI

Richard Weilenmann (Switzerland) – president, Ljiljana Markus-Cizelj (Croatia), Yannick Poubanne (France), Albert Marinculić (Croatia), Jan Bernardy (Czech Republic), Peter Nowlan (Ireland).



FVE Board during the General Assembly. From left: Margareta Widell, Stephen Ware, Ljiljana Markus-Cizelj, Rainer Schneichel, Walter Winding



## Miscellaneous

### MRSA Conference

#### FVE conference on MRSA

FVE intends to organise a scientific conference on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in humans and animals, in Brussels, on Tuesday 8 April 2008. The conference will examine a series of related key topics with speakers from both the veterinary world as well as from the field of human medicine. The conference is aimed to exchange information on the prevalence of MRSA and to bring the latest clinical and research approaches to the understanding, prevention and treatment of MRSA in animals.

Registration will open in January. Please note that only a limited number of seats (150) are available.

Additionally, there will be a poster session, by which conference participants can share their research and experiences. If you are interested in attending the conference or presenting a poster, please contact the FVE Office

### EU Presidency

#### Slovenian presidency from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

Slovenia will be the first 'new' Member State to hold the Presidency of the European Union from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30 June 2008. France will follow Slovenia from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31 December.

## Bluetongue Conference

#### Use of vaccination against Bluetongue Conference

On 16 January 2008, the European Commission will host a conference in Brussels to discuss the EU strategy for the use of vaccination against bluetongue.

On the basis of the experience gained, and considering the new EU legislation as regards bluetongue, it is appropriate to discuss at Community level the strategy for the use of vaccination against bluetongue as a means of controlling the disease. Taking also into account its importance vis-à-vis trade and the economical effects of the disease.

Representatives from Member States, the OIE, EFSA, EMEA and other stakeholder groups will attend the conference and exchange experiences and ideas on vaccination against bluetongue.

Attendance to the conference is free of charge. However, in order to make the necessary arrangements it is necessary that those wishing to participate confirm their attendance by filling in the registration form on the webpage. Please find the link below. During the conference translation will be provided. It will be possible to listen to what is said in English, French, German, Dutch, Italian and Spanish and to speak in those languages.

For more information, including the provisional agenda, see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bluetongue\\_conference\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bluetongue_conference_en.htm)



## **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.

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### **Sections**

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

### **Observers**

Ukraine, Albania

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