



Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe



Newsletter March 2008

## Vaccination: our golden egg

As many people know, the positive effects of vaccination have been known for over 200 years. In *“An inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae or Cow-Pox”*, British physician Edward Jenner (1749–1823) described how milkmaids, once infected with cowpox, were no longer susceptible to the often fatal small pox disease. In his own words, *“what renders the cow-pox virus so extremely singular is that the person who has been thus affected is forever after secure from the infection of the small-pox.”* This discovery, at the basis of all modern immunology, was honoured by Louis Pasteur in 1881 by introducing the name "vaccination", (from vaccinia virus of cowpox) for all immunisations.

What few people know, however, is that it was also Edward Jenner who described how cuckoos behave in other birds' nests. He observed that it was not the parent cuckoo that ejected the foster parents' eggs and chicks from the nest, as was previously believed, but the newly hatched cuckoo itself. In its first few days of life, the fledgling bird works its way backwards, up the side of the nest, throwing the other eggs and young birds over the edge. This is repeated until it remains the only one left.

Vaccination has been known as one of the most effective, safe and cost-effective measures to prevent and control outbreaks of infectious diseases. Thanks to vaccination, small pox – which, in 1950 still claimed 50 million cases – was eradicated by 1980. Other diseases, like rabies, foot and mouth disease or classical swine fever are now under control in large parts of the world. In other diseases, such as influenza or bluetongue, vaccination plays a major role in the prevention of clinical disease.

Nevertheless, some people seem unable to stop behaving like little cuckoos when it comes to vaccination: they do not rest until they have pushed vaccination over the edge to a certain death. Recently, at a hearing organised by the European Parliament on the “EU Community Animal Health Strategy and Vaccination Technology”, and after many presentations about the need for vaccines, the discussion was diverted, once again, to “what consumers might think of meat from vaccinated animals”. Let’s be clear: almost every food-producing animal kept in Europe today is vaccinated, and almost all meat imported from third countries is produced by vaccinated animals. Cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry, horses: they all are vaccinated to protect their health and welfare and without any risk towards food safety.

Vaccination of animals is safe for consumers. It would seem irresponsible to suggest otherwise, especially if the suggestion comes from those who should know better. In case of trade-related concerns regarding vaccination, it would seem more honest to step forward and put them on the table – rather than hide behind so-called “consumer interest”. But whatever you do: stop pushing the golden egg over the edge!

Jan Vaarten,  
FVE Executive Director



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## Animal Health

### Community Animal Health Strategy

#### FVE: much praise, some concerns

The Community Animal Health Strategy is going a long way in the right direction, according to the FVE. The FVE, member of the Advisory Committee on Animal Health, congratulates the Commission, and DG Sanco in particular with the outlined strategy, with particular praise for the “*shift from a series of interrelated policy actions to defining a strategy and identifying long term goals.*”

In its December position paper<sup>1</sup>, the FVE welcomes in particular:

- The recognition of the **strong link between Animal Health and Public Health and between Animal Health and Animal Welfare**. “*In the Strategy Animal Welfare is identified as important and we hope this will be reflected in the actions. The added value that Animal Welfare offers to the European society should be recognised and debate should not be limited to the issue of economic costs.*”
- The **new Community general legal framework** (“Animal Health Law”), establishing the general principles, defining the roles and responsibilities, organisation and procedures.
- The **global approach of the control of Animal Health**. “*It will be much more effective to go to the origin of transmissible disease outbreaks and try to solve these locally, than to wait until they have reached our borders.*”
- The **increased coordination with OIE** – in terms of legislation, structure, organisation, resources, capacities, the role of the private sector and paraprofessionals – as a ‘minimum goal’. Adequate resources should be directed to achieve this objective in order to protect Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health and the global economy.

<sup>1</sup>

[http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/ah/position\\_papers/fve\\_07\\_099\\_cahs.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/ah/position_papers/fve_07_099_cahs.pdf)

#### Concerns and recommendations

The FVE also raised a number of concerns and formulated some comments, mainly regarding:

- **On-farm biosecurity**, where the key question is not ‘if’ but ‘how’. “*Much can be achieved by raising people’s knowledge and awareness of risks and changing their attitudes towards these risks*”. Early disease notification is an essential part of reinforcing biosecurity, while long-term health management programmes “*should be an integral part*” of overall farm management programmes.
- **Vaccination** should be re-considered as a valuable tool in the prevention and control of animal diseases. “*The EU veterinary community needs to reevaluate the non-vaccination strategy*”, in particular to avoid the culling of healthy animals.
- The **illegal introduction of live animals**, animal products and biologicals is an ongoing threat to Animal Health, Public Health, international trade and consumer confidence. “*Cross-border co-operation between Veterinary Services, Customs and the Police should be strengthened.*”
- The need for an international, coherent and reliable **system for identification and registration** for animals, both food producing and companion animals, which FVE considers “*an essential requirement for monitoring animals and their health status*”.
- The development of **vaccines and diagnostic tests to distinguish between infected and vaccinated animals** should be given high priority. As it is in the interest of society to have reliable vaccines and diagnostic tests available, the development of these products should not be left to market forces alone. “*Competent authorities should take a greater interest and more initiatives in stimulating the development of these products and by sharing the financial risks involved.*”
- The role of **animal transport** and gathering places like markets as a threat to Animal Health does not seem to be sufficiently recognised. Besides the impact on animal welfare, the transport of animals from one region into another region, carries the risk of introducing an animal disease. “*Frequent transports of large groups of animals throughout Europe, especially when they are brought together at live stockmarkets and other gathering places,*

carry large risks for animal health and welfare.”

- Regarding **cost sharing schemes**, the reporting of disease outbreaks “*should not be delayed by uncertainty about the reimbursement of direct and indirect costs*”.
- The **structure of the European Animal Production sector** “*still focuses too much on large-volume-low-costs production, which hampers the development of high quality production methods and products and which is not sustainable.*” If Europe wishes to remain competitive, other values such as “*animal welfare friendly production methods*” should be promoted.

The Strategy – a Commission communication, is under its first reading in the European Parliament (Rapporteur Janusz Wojciechowski). On 27 February, the FVE and other members of the Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the next steps with the stakeholders.

### Promoting animal health and the role of veterinarians

## EU Veterinary Week, a joint initiative of DG Sanco and the FVE

EU Veterinary Week is the name of a joint communication initiative planned to be held towards the end of 2008 of the Commission (DG Sanco) and the FVE to promote the new Common Animal Health Strategy, and in particular the role of the veterinarian and the importance of biosecurity, both at farm level and international (legal and illegal) trade level.

According to the FVE, over 60% of infections in humans and over 75% of emerging diseases originate from animals. This underlines the value of the “One Health” concept: the interdependence of animal health and public health. In this concept, the veterinary profession has a key role to play in every part of the food chain – a role that should be highlighted, according to the FVE.

A working group with delegates from DG Sanco and the FVE is currently looking into the practicalities and format of the promotional event,

aimed at farmers, veterinarians and the public at large. In its preparations, the working group is to be assisted by an advisory committee of stakeholders (such as farmer and consumer organisations). Interested persons should contact the FVE secretariat.



FVE and the EU Commission are organising an EU Veterinary Week for the end of 2008

### Bluetongue Conference

## FVE urges Member States to prepare for vaccination in 2008

“*The main and probably only effective measure against bluetongue is vaccination – accompanied by ancillary measures such as movement restrictions and surveillance*”, concluded Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Animal Health and Welfare (DG Sanco), at the end of the EU Bluetongue conference, held in Brussels on 16 January<sup>2</sup>.

This is why competent authorities in Europe should decide without further delay whether they plan to vaccinate against bluetongue, urged Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive Director. However, the availability of sufficient quantities of vaccine, currently under development, is critical. The total number of doses required in Europe is estimated at around 150-200 million. “*Taking into account that production alone will need six to eight months, it is essential that vaccination strategies are defined and the vaccines ordered as soon as possible*”, Mr Vaarten added.

<sup>2</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/conclusions\\_bt\\_conf.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/conclusions_bt_conf.pdf)

The FVE urges competent authorities to take their decisions without delay, to “avoid losing an additional year in the fight against bluetongue – with all the consequences for animal health and welfare this entails.”

The Bluetongue Vaccination Conference, organised by the Commission, was attended by over 400 participants, including scientists, stakeholders, Member State authorities and industry representatives.



The main and probably only effective measure against bluetongue is vaccination

### Public hearing on the EU Animal Health Strategy and Vaccine Technologies

## Stakeholders call for more research into animal vaccines

Vaccines have an important role to play in maintaining animal health in Europe, and more research is urgently needed to develop safe, effective vaccines against both new and existing diseases. This was the overriding message from a European Parliament hearing on the community animal health strategy and vaccine technologies, which took place on 13 February.

In her speech, MEP Avril Doyle said that “today many unmet therapeutic needs for veterinary medicinal products in the EU remain. Total sales of veterinary medicines in the world are only 3% of that of human medicines; ‘a paradigm shift is required to advance animal health. The regulatory framework is the biggest obstacle to innovation, together with a decline in the social acceptance of risk in Europe towards the animal health

industry. We do not want to wait until an emerging disease reaches crisis state, at which point regulations might be ‘relaxed’ but no innovative products will be in the pipeline. According to the Task Force on Medicines Availability (2007 report) political decisions to fund the needs of animals for medicines **are needed ahead of the next planned revision the overall veterinary medicines legalisation.**

For more information on Avril Doyle’s speech and presentation visit [www.iscintelligence.com](http://www.iscintelligence.com)

### Combating avian influenza and other emerging diseases

## OIE calls for “adequate funding of infrastructure and veterinary services”

“Bird flu will always remain a risk, be it H5N1 or another strain and for that reason pandemic preparedness as well as permanent control of the pathogen at the animal source are important”, stressed Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), at a meeting with the press in January. He underlined the importance to strengthen the infrastructure to allow an early detection and rapid response of emerging diseases at animal level, especially those with a zoonotic potential.

He also reiterated the need to strengthen the governance of veterinary services and to improve the collaboration between disciplines, as well as between private and public sectors.

This need was also identified on a European level by the FVE, in its recent position paper<sup>3</sup> on the EU Community Animal Health Strategy. The Federation called for “adequate funding and support” of Veterinary Services, with a special attention to the veterinary coverage of remote areas. “Disease monitoring and surveillance are crucial for the prevention of large outbreaks and the occurrence of ‘white spots’ on the map should not occur.”

3

[http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/ah/position\\_papers/fve\\_07\\_099\\_cah\\_s.pdf](http://www.fve.org/papers/pdf/ah/position_papers/fve_07_099_cah_s.pdf)

## Animal Welfare

### Laying hens

#### FVE welcomes Commission's "confirmed ban" on battery cages

There is substantial evidence that banning the use of conventional battery cages for laying hens could considerably improve their health and welfare, according to a report published by the Commission on 8 January<sup>4</sup>. An EU ban on conventional battery cages is due to enter into force from 2012<sup>5</sup>.

FVE welcomes the report, stressing that the Commission report clearly concludes that the 2012 deadline should be maintained. "*The Commission Communication not only provides clear animal welfare and animal health arguments but also socio-economic and other arguments that show beyond doubt that the ban on battery cages should be maintained for 2012*", underlined Dr Walter Winding, FVE president.



**FVE urges operators to start phasing out the use of conventional battery cages as soon as possible**

The report presents a number of independent scientific and socio-economic studies which support this measure by outlining the clear benefits of changing to so-called 'enriched' cages or alternative (free range or barn) rearing systems for laying hens. The report also lists a

<sup>4</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/comm\\_pdf\\_com\\_2007\\_0865\\_f\\_en\\_acte.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/comm_pdf_com_2007_0865_f_en_acte.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> in line with Directive 1999/74/EC on minimum standards for laying hens

number of recommended actions for the period leading up to the ban, including campaigns to promote public awareness of the way hens are reared, in order to provide competitive opportunities for EU producers.

Postponing the ban any further would not only risk to convey an image that EU Animal Welfare rules can be taken lightly, but it would also disadvantage those producers who have already abandoned battery cages and invested in alternative systems.

FVE urges operators to start phasing out the use of these cages as soon as possible for a full compliance with the EU ban by the deadline of 2012.

### Stakeholders meeting

#### Improving the welfare of slaughter animals

Improving the welfare of animals at the time of killing or slaughter, by reviewing the current legislation<sup>6</sup> was the aim of the stakeholders meeting on 19 December, organised by the Working group of the Commission's Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health. In its annual management plan, DG Sanco listed the protection of slaughter animals as a high animal welfare priority: "*A key deliverable in 2008 will be the proposal for a Council regulation on the protection of animals at slaughter or killing*"<sup>7</sup>.

The Commission received constructive support from all stakeholders for most of the subjects discussed. In particular they agreed on the principle that operators should be made more responsible for animal welfare – as for food safety issues. The participants also welcomed the proposal for a regulation rather than a directive.

Key points that need to be introduced in the new legislation, according to the FVE:

\*All operatives involved with stunning and slaughter should be properly trained, their skills and knowledge examined and certified.

<sup>6</sup> Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing

<sup>7</sup> p25, DG Health and Consumer Protection 2008 Annual Management Plan

\*Each abattoir should appoint an appropriate employee to be the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) responsible for overseeing the unloading, lairage and slaughter process and to ensure compliance with the standards and legislation.

\* All equipment or method used for stunning and killing should be approved on a European level before use.

\* The Official Veterinarian has an important role to fulfil both in auditing and inspection.



**Improving the protection of animals at slaughter: an update of the current legislation is expected in 2008**

A key factor in establishing and maintaining optimal animal handling and stunning in slaughterhouses is a clearly communicated management commitment to animal welfare demonstrated through the appropriate training of all staff involved in animal handling and ongoing monitoring, supervision and recording of animal handling and stunning practices.

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

These and other topics were discussed at the Brussels stakeholders meeting, including Standard Operating Procedures for animal welfare, welfare indicators at stunning/killing/bleeding, the killing for disease control purposes, permitted methods of slaughter and killing and the creation of an centre/network of experts.

## Animal transport

### Technical stakeholder meeting in view of “revising current legislation”

The Working Group on Animal Transport, of the Advisory Group on the Food chain, Animal health and Plant health will meet in Brussels on 3 March. The goal of the meeting is to allow interested parties to provide the services of DG Sanco with “concrete comments and recommendations which will be useful for the future revision of current EU legislation on animal transport”. Contrary to the plenary meetings of the Advisory Group, it is a technical meeting aimed at gathering specialised inputs, such as space allowances and loading densities.

In view of the deadline, the FVE’s own Working group<sup>8</sup> on transport is currently preparing the meeting.

## Food producing animals

### Cloning: Scientifically safe, but ethical concerns?

The draft opinion on animal cloning of food producing animals, of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) was discussed at a meeting with its Stakeholder Consultative Platform. The meeting, held on 7 February, was part of EFSA’s ongoing public consultation on the draft opinion. The consultation was open until 25 February 2008<sup>9</sup>.

According to EFSA’s draft opinion, “there is no expectation that clones or their progeny would pose any new or additional environmental risks compared with conventionally bred animals”. However, EFSA recognised that “the issue of animal cloning raises ethical, moral and other

<sup>8</sup> Members: John Williams (UK, chair), Romano Zilli (Italy), Alexander Rabitsch (Austria), Marc Janssens (Belgium), Karen von Holleben (Germany) and Johan Beck-Friis (Sweden). The group also includes a representative of the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) as an observer.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1178685288334.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178685288334.htm)

*societal issues beyond its remit*". It therefore welcomed the publication of the Opinion of the European Group on Ethics and New Technologies (EGE) on the ethical aspects of animal cloning for the food supply.

Considering the current level of suffering and health problems of surrogate dams and animal clones, the EGE "has its doubts as to whether cloning animals for food supply is ethically justified", according to its Opinion, adopted on 16 January<sup>10</sup>. "At present, the EGE does not see convincing arguments to justify the production of food from clones and their offspring." If in the future food products derived from cloned animals were to be introduced to the European market, the EGE recommended that a number of requirements are met in the fields of food safety, animal welfare and traceability.

The EGE was asked to issue this Opinion following the announcement by the US Food and Drug Administration concerning a possible authorisation of food products derived from cloned cattle, pigs and goats on the market<sup>11</sup>.

Because of its potential impact on animal health, animal welfare and food safety, the dossier is closely monitored by the FVE.



**Cloning animals for food supply may not be ethically justified according to the European Group on Ethics and New Technologies (EGE)**

<sup>10</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/european\\_group\\_ethics/activities/docs/press\\_release\\_opinion23\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/european_group_ethics/activities/docs/press_release_opinion23_en.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/cloning.htm>

## Progress without pain

### Ban on testing: for Great apes, but not for other primates

"The use of non-human primates is of particular concern to me, stressed Commissioner Stavros Dimas (Environment), at the "Progress without pain" meeting held on 13 February. This mini-conference on alternatives to animal experiments was jointly organised by Eurogroup for Animals and MEPs Jens Holm and Neil Parish.

At the meeting, Commissioner Dimas announced a ban on the experimentation on "all wild-caught animals regardless of the species". He also announced a ban on experimentation on Great apes. Testing on other non-human primates will not be banned but will require ethical evaluation. No phasing-out is planned although a review clause will be added.

Last September, the MEPs had already formally requested the phasing out of primate research. In their declaration<sup>12</sup>, they had urged the EU institutions to urgently "end the use of apes and wild-caught monkeys in scientific experiments" when revising Directive 86/609/EC on the protection of laboratory animals<sup>13</sup>, and to establish a timetable for replacing the use of all primates in scientific experiments with alternatives.

At the meeting, Sonja Van Tichelen (Eurogroup) called for an animal replacement strategy "with clear goals, clear actions to reach these goals and enough resources". She particularly regretted the current lack of targets, for "previously, the EU had a target". In the 5th Environmental Action Programme, the EU was committed to reducing by 50% the number of animals used by the 2000. "This target was not reached; not because of the target but the lack of strategy".

Furthermore, Claude Reiss (Antidote) even went so far as to state that there are no two animal species sufficiently similar to provide a suitable model for the other. "Animal experimentation continues to provide a false sense of security, by equating animal research with human safety standards", he added.

The proposal for the revised Directive is due to be presented by the Commission at the beginning of April.

<sup>12</sup> Written Declaration 40/2007

<sup>13</sup> Council Directive 86/609/EEC of 24 November 1986 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

## Public Health

### One Health

#### **FVE to hold conference on MRSA**

In view of its “One Health” concept, the FVE will organise a conference on Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), in collaboration with TAIEX, in Brussels on 8 April<sup>14</sup>. The conference will examine a series of related key topics with specialists from both the veterinary and the medical professions. The conference is aimed at exchanging information on the prevalence of MRSA and the latest updates regarding the understanding, prevention and control of MRSA.

Speakers include representatives of the European Commission, the European Food Safety Agency, the Standing Committee of European Doctors, the European Medicines Agency, Avril Doyle (European Parliament) and Vida Cadonic-Spelic, Slovenia’s Chief Veterinary Officer. The meeting will be chaired by professor Johanna Fink Gremmels (Utrecht Veterinary Faculty).

The conference is divided into four consecutive sessions: MRSA, what are we talking about; MRSA, a societal concern; MRSA and animals and MRSA, working in partnership. Participants will be registered at a first come, first served basis.



**For the full programme and registration to the FVE MRSA Conference on 8 April please visit [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org).**

<sup>14</sup> The programme can be downloaded from [http://www.fve.org/invitations/mrsa\\_conference\\_programme.pdf](http://www.fve.org/invitations/mrsa_conference_programme.pdf)

## Medicines

### FVE / TAIEX joint meeting

#### **Workshop for candidate countries on the EU veterinary medicines legislation**

On 18 March, the FVE will organise a workshop in Zagreb (Croatia), on “Challenges for Candidate countries preparing to implement the veterinary medicines legislation”, in collaboration with TAIEX.

Objective of the conference is to help prepare the groundwork for correct implementation and cooperation in the field of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation. The meeting will focus on raising awareness among veterinary practitioners of the changes ahead, and their responsibility towards the responsible use of veterinary drugs. The conference will also inform delegates about the “acquis communautaire” in the veterinary pharmaceutical field, including pharmacovigilance procedures, drug licensing procedures and the availability of veterinary medicines.

### Oncology

#### **Consultation on dossier requirements of anticancer drugs for pets**

At its meeting of 15-17 January, the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) of the European Medicines Agency, adopted a “Guideline on dossier requirements for anticancer medicinal products for dogs and cats”<sup>15</sup> for a six-month public consultation (deadline: 31 July 2008). The guideline outlines the particular information for oncology products in relation to quality, safety, efficacy and environmental impact requirements.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/vet/ewp/2851008en.pdf>

## Education

### Study tour

## Students visit the FVE and EU institutions

On 31 January, a group of over 30 students from the Netherlands and the UK visited Brussels for a short study tour, organised in collaboration with the FVE. On the programme: the FVE, an introduction to the EU, Eurogroup for Animals and Animal welfare in an international perspective. In the afternoon, the students visited the European Parliament and had the opportunity to meet MEPs.

Students were either undergraduates from the Veterinary Faculty in Utrecht or from an MSc course on animal biology and welfare (Agricultural college from the Netherlands and the UK). This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that FVE organises such a visit.

## FVE & Professional matters

### Strategic planning

## FVE sets out priorities for 2008

For 2008, the FVE Board of Directors identified the following priorities. Although presented as separate items, most should be considered in combination. This applies in particular to Animal Health, Public Health and Animal Welfare.

- **One Health:** Promotion of the “One Health” concept, and in particular the role the veterinary profession has to play in public health.
- **Animal Health,** with particular attention to the development of the EU Community Animal Health Strategy (including the strengthening of veterinary services, adequate monitoring and surveillance, identification and registration, herd health programmes, on-farm biosecurity and the Veterinary week)



**The FVE Board from left to right Stephen Ware (UK), Ljiljana Markus-Cizelj (Croatia), Walter Winding (President), Margareta Widell (Sweden), Rainer Schneichel (Germany)**

- **Animal Welfare:** Priorities for 2008 include Animal welfare and product labelling, Protection of welfare around slaughter, Transport of animals, Welfare of laying hens, OIE initiatives (including the October 2008 Conference on animal welfare), the promotion of animal welfare in education and support of the establishment of a European specialist college on animal welfare.
- **Medicines.** Special topics for 2008 are the revision of the EU legislation on residues of pharmacologically active substances in food, the MRSA conference and the prudent use of antibiotics.
- **Veterinary Profession.** FVE action points for 2008 include the development of a European Code of Conduct, the definition of the Veterinary Act, the development of a strategy on “stress-related problems”, the Implementation of the Services Directives and the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications; and deregulation of the profession.
- **Education.** In education FVE strives to strengthen its relations with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), to create a strong basis for the development of the next generations of veterinarians. In addition, FVE will continue to promote Life Long Learning. In order to achieve its goals, FVE will search for alliances with partners working on interests we share and invest in building stronger working relations. Attention will be given to internal and external communication and the FVE communication plan will be updated.

## Code of Conduct

### European Veterinary Code: nearly finalised

The FVE is currently finalising the European veterinary Code of Conduct, which it hopes to adopt at its next general assembly, in June 2008. The Code is divided into two chapters: Core values and Further recommendations. Core values represent a consensus of values shared by all FVE members, to be implemented within the national codes of Conduct. Recommendations listed under Chapter 2 should be taken into account in all revisions of national Codes of Conduct with a view to their progressive implementation, for a “*greater protection of recipients and a higher quality of services*”. Goal of the European Code would be to facilitate the free movement of service providers and increase the confidence in services offered by providers from other Member States.

## Celebrating the profession

### World Veterinary Day Award

The World Veterinary Day was established in 2000 by the World Veterinary Association (WVA), and is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. The WVA and the OIE have now launched the World Veterinary Day Award, for the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, either alone or in cooperation with another veterinary body<sup>16</sup>.

Events could be public events organised with support of the media, open days, competitions or any event that could create attention and get messages out to a large number of people in an interesting, entertaining and stimulating way. The 2008 Award will be handed out at the 29th World Veterinary Congress, to be held in Vancouver, Canada on 27-31 July 2008. The prize: US\$ 1,000 will be donated to the winning organisation(s).

<sup>16</sup> For further information, see [http://www.oie.int/eng/press/Award\\_EN.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/press/Award_EN.pdf)

Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2008 to the World Veterinary Association, [BS@ddd.dk](mailto:BS@ddd.dk)

## Equine veterinarian associations

### FEEVA's new priorities: member's services, emerging diseases and transport

The Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) elected a new board at its general assembly on 24 January in Venice: Joe Collins (Ireland) – president, Michael Duë (Germany) – treasurer, Josh Slater (UK) – secretary and Gábor Bodó (Hungary), Erik Gostelie (Netherlands) and Marco Pepe (Italy), board members.

Although the improved availability of medicines and the identification of horses have always been major aims of the FEEVA, it also addressed a number of other priorities:

- Member services: Although equine veterinarians mainly join their national association for educational purposes or professional representation, some associations also provide business advice in case of personal or mental health problems (debts, burn-out, addictive habits). FEEVA decided to make an inventory of the member services the various FEEVA members provide.
- Emerging diseases: Some EU Member countries (Hungary, Romania) screen all horses on a regular basis for Equine infectious anaemia (EIA). The discussion, which also included other diseases such as rabies, West-Nile, and Equine viral arteritis, showed that there is a lack of epidemiological data concerning equine diseases in Europe. FEEVA delegates decided to check the current situation on state-run disease surveillance systems for horses, and to share ideas and resources. A questionnaire will be prepared.
- Transport of horses. In 2005, a new transport Regulation was adopted, which is gradually being implemented. However, reports of abuse and infringements during transport of animals including horses continue, especially on long-

distance transport of horses for slaughter from the East to the South.

The next Equine Meeting of the Year will be held in Dublin in 2009.



**FEEVA Board from left to right Gábor Bodó (Hungary), Erik, Gostelie (Netherlands), Nancy De Briyne (FVE Office), Josh Slater (UK), Marco Pepe (Italy), Joe Collins (Ireland)**

## In Memoriam

### Iakovos Zarzouras

With sadness, the FVE Board announces the death of our Greek colleague Iakovos Zarzouras, who died on 25 January, aged 56. After qualifying as a veterinary surgeon in 1977 from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dr Zarzouras started his career in the poultry sector, before joining the pharmaceutical industry (Elanco) as a technical adviser. In 1989, he created his own milk and cheese producing companies in the dairy industry. His current position was quality manager of Fage Dairy Industry, leader of the Greek dairy sector. He attended the UEVH and FVE meetings as a delegate for Greece from May 2002 and he was member of the food hygiene working group.



His contributions to the meetings and his professional attitude were much appreciated, and his open and friendly personality will be missed. He leaves a wife and two 23-year-old sons.



## **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**

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### **Acknowledgements:**

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Federation of Veterinarians of Europe - AISBL

rue Defacqz, 1 B – 1000 Brussels

Tel: +32.2.533.70.20 - Fax: +32.2.537.28.28

E-mail: [info@fve.org](mailto:info@fve.org) - Internet: [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)