



**Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe**

# Newsletter October 2008

A broad variety in backgrounds yet a great harmony on common goals. This transpired from the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), where Chief Veterinary Officers and other officials from over 40 European countries met in Vilnius, with representatives from international organisations. Technical items on the agenda included the control of bluetongue and the concept of compartmentalisation, for which specific recommendations were adopted (see <http://www.rr-europe.oie.int>)

It is obvious that delegates from different corners of Europe, from Iceland to Kazakhstan and from Finland to Portugal, have different historical and cultural backgrounds, and work under different social and economical conditions. Nevertheless they all shared the vision that today our societies are faced with new and significant challenges in the protection of animal health and welfare and public health.

Dr Barry O'Neill, president of OIE's International Committee commented, "*Our world is absolutely connected, whether that be economic, social or cultural dependence, resulting in a reality that events happening in even remote parts of the world to us often have a significant impact on what we have to deal with in our own countries. This not only applies to emerging diseases and their rapid movement through countries and regions, but also to the more 'traditional' animal health and food safety events, resulting from the large amounts and rapid movements of animals and animal products, along with increasing numbers of passengers movements.*"

Dr Bernard Vallat, director general of the OIE, expressed his deep concern about the condition of Veterinary Services in several countries. "*Poor Veterinary Services governance is responsible for many problems. Inappropriate political decisions have led to the virtual wholesale dismantling of Veterinary Services, the results are catastrophic and immediate action is needed*", he said. The OIE is currently conducting a worldwide programme to strengthen Veterinary Services, in close cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Bank. Initially spurred by the avian influenza crisis, the so-called good-governance programme is broader and extends well beyond this disease.

Both speakers agreed that the visibility of the veterinary profession is a critical factor for obtaining its position in society as the protector of public goods such as animal health and welfare and public health. To ensure the commitment of politicians and authorities along with animal owners and keepers, we need to be clear about what can be delivered and what expectations can be fulfilled. All across Europe, from Iceland to Kazakhstan, irrespective of the local conditions, the profession needs to communicate much more. It has to be visible in all its capabilities, showing to be ready to live up to its responsibilities. The upcoming EU Veterinary Week is an excellent opportunity to work on this topic. You will read more about this and many more recent topics in this issue of our Newsletter.

Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive Director



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## Animal Health

10-14 November 2008

### Preparations for European Veterinary Week well underway

The European Veterinary week, a joint initiative from the Commission's DG Sanco and the FVE, will be launched in the week of 10-14 November. The initiative is aimed at promoting the Community Animal Health Strategy as well as the 'one health' concept of the FVE. *"This is a huge and unique opportunity to raise the profile of the veterinary profession,* stressed Jan Vaarten, FVE executive director, at the last FVE general assembly.

"The Veterinary Week, with its theme "prevention is better than cure" will focus on biosecurity, and in particular biosecurity on farms and at the border.



EU Veterinary Week calendar: each month includes a small message on biosecurity



Logo of the EU vet week symbolizing the 'One Health' concept

The event will start with a kick-off meeting called "One Health: healthy animals = healthy people" on Monday 10th November in Brussels, in attendance of Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou. Wednesday the same week, another event will be held at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. Finally, on Friday 14 November, the third large event will be held at EuroTier (Hanover), one of the main animal trade shows in Europe, in the presence of Bernard Van Goethem. This event will coincide with the meeting of the FVE General Assembly, breaking with tradition by holding its autumn meeting outside Brussels.

The week will be followed by several events at national level. A European road show is planned, visiting various important events to spread the message at veterinary conferences, agriculture fairs and exhibitions. In addition, a specific web site of the European Veterinary Week is being developed and will be available in all official languages of the EU.

<http://www.one-health.eu><sup>1</sup>

Finally, several tools including a logo and a calendar have been developed to highlight the event.

The core organising team (DG Sanco and the FVE) is assisted by an Advisory group of stakeholders (farmers' organizations, industry and other stakeholders) and has the support of the CVOs and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The FVE encourages its member organisations to participate and has called for ideas to make this event a success.

<sup>1</sup> The web site will be ready on October 15<sup>th</sup>



## Community Animal Health Strategy

### Action plan officially adopted

On 10 September, the Commission adopted a Communication laying down the Action Plan for the implementation of the EU's animal health strategy.

The Action Plan contains the key actions and their indicative timetable (see FVE Newsletter of July 2008). Progress of the different actions can also be followed on-line<sup>2</sup>.

## Animal Health

### Interview with Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Animal Welfare at DG Sanco

### “If veterinarians won’t defend animal welfare, who will?”

Andrea Gavinelli has just been appointed as responsible for the DG Sanco’s Animal Welfare Unit. He started out as a dairy practitioner, and his interest in animal behaviour led him to do a PhD in that field. Which in turn led to the position of official veterinarian on animal welfare at the Italian ministry of Health— before coming to Brussels. In a recent interview, Nancy De Briyne (FVE) and Karin de Lange (FVE Newsletter) asked a few questions...

**You have been working on animal welfare in the Commission since 1999. What have the main challenges and achievements been in this field?**

One change was me – or rather my position! I was the first official at the Commission to work full-time on animal welfare (in 1999). At the time, both animal health and welfare fell under the remit of DG Agriculture. The transfer to DG Sanco meant a full integration in the food chain, closer to consumers: animal health and welfare

have become citizen’s issues. The recent Eurobarometer surveys clearly illustrate the public concern with animal welfare. This indicates an important shift in thinking to the “fork to farm” direction: we should listen to those who are eating the product.

Another big change is the increase in scientific support, also thanks to the creation of the EFSA. Animal welfare scientists, veterinarians and policy makers have never been working this close!

**Recently, a new Animal Welfare Unit was created within DG Sanco, with you as head of unit. Could you please comment why this is important and what it changes?**

Animal welfare is becoming of age. In addition the EU is having quite a leadership role in this area worldwide with a set of legislative measures developed in the last 30 years.

The Unit is a new entity with around ten people passionate about animal welfare. This is the first Unit in the Commission dedicated to animal welfare: in my view, this not only recognises its importance but also the need to guarantee its continued existence in future, through long term policy guidance in this area.

The fields of expertise required to manage animal welfare are very varied due to the multidisciplinary nature of the issue. Veterinarians are working side by side with lawyers, research experts, economists and experts in communication.

Thanks to the new Unit, the handling of animal welfare policies may become more efficient, as demanded by European citizens and stakeholders. It will also facilitate the EU to keep its leadership in this area.

**What do you see as current challenges in the coming years?**

Veterinarians, farmers and stakeholders are all more or less involved in animal welfare projects today, but the vision and the objectives are not yet coordinated. Currently, every group mainly works on its own idea of welfare and only focuses on its own approach. If you put the issue in the international frame and consider the needs and possibilities of developing countries, you understand why we need to move forward step by step. It also shows why the adoption of international standards on animal welfare in 2005 by the World Animal Health

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/actionplan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/actionplan_en.htm)

Organisations represents an incredible achievement!

I can see a true shift in the approach to animal welfare in the veterinary profession. It is becoming clear to all that the science behind this issue is strong and that the enforcement of the standards is bringing back sound business - including for veterinarians.

### **How do you see the role of the veterinarian in animal welfare?**

Veterinarians are both trusted by the public and have knowledge in the fields of animal health, food safety, zoonoses and animal welfare. If veterinarians won't defend animal welfare, who will? They should assume the role of scientists knowledgeable of animals. However, their approach should be led by science, not by economic arguments! If you want to be an actor in animal welfare, you shouldn't justify management systems that are clearly contrary to animal welfare.

Every day, I am asked to answer to questions on the costs derived from the implementation of animal welfare standards. The economic impact of the measures that the Commission aims to propose is carefully evaluated - this is part of my job description. I believe that a veterinarian in the field should be led by professional knowledge of the animal and rely on science and practical experience to recognise where animals suffer.

### **The European Union is often considered a leader in the field of animal welfare. How can we keep this position regarding Third countries? Welfare labelling?**

The advantage of the EU of being one step ahead in animal welfare is that we are competitive at the top end of the market – but we will need to work hard to maintain this position! This part of the market focuses on quality foods (labels, geographical origin). Instead of just buying “ham”, you choose special ham from this or that region or a certain breed of pigs. Producers supply detailed information on the origin of the product, and welfare quality is becoming part of the equation. Perhaps producers could take the same approach as with the quality indication for certain wines: Animal welfare should become a strong selling point!

### **Upon your retirement, what would you like to have achieved in the field of animal welfare?**

I would hope that stories about good animal welfare have become everyday business and have convinced others to do likewise and invest in its improvement. And not due to coercive legislation but as a "natural instinct" from farmers and veterinarians!




**Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Animal Welfare at DG Sanco, and Nancy de Briyne, FVE's Deputy Executive Director**

## **Welfare of animals at slaughter**

### **New Regulation to overcome 'unsatisfactory situation'**

“The operator will be responsible for the welfare of animals during slaughter, according to a recent Commission proposal. Each person handling and/or killing animals (for meat or for fur) will need a certificate of competence. Furthermore, each Member State will be required to establish a national centre of reference to provide technical assistance on animal welfare at killing. The centre should also assess new stunning methods and equipment and newly built slaughterhouses, and accredit bodies delivering certificates of competence. The Commission proposal also provides defines stunning methods, and proposes a common system for authorising new methods of stunning. Finally, the proposal ensures that animal welfare is considered at all stages of killing for disease-control purposes.

The present situation is not satisfactory, according to the Commission. “The level of animal protection is unequally reinforced in the Member states, with sometimes very unsatisfactory results”, the proposal's preamble states. Furthermore, “discrepancies in



requirements in the Member States for slaughterhouses and manufacturers of stunning equipment do not ensure a level playing field”.

Every year, nearly 360 million pigs, sheep, goats and cattle as well as more than four billion poultry are killed in EU slaughterhouses. In addition, the European fur industry kills 25 million animals, while hatcheries kill 330 million day-old chicks.

In 2006, the Commission ordered an external study on the stunning practices in slaughterhouses and their economic, social and environmental impact. Major stakeholders were consulted and scientific, technical and legal experts were contacted. Specific web pages were created and Member states were asked to give input. One of the outcomes was that animal welfare was not judged a major cost factor but in most cases was regarded as an important tool to produce good quality.

The FVE working group on slaughter led by Robert Huey, UK is happy that most recommendations of the FVE position<sup>3</sup> have been incorporated in the new proposal. Karen von Holleben, member of the working group, says *“FVE very much welcomes this proposal. It is clear step in the right direction and has the potential to improve the welfare at slaughter and killing of millions of animals. Some open questions remain such as regarding the acceptability of certain stunning methods but hopefully these will be solved within due time.”*

## Hindåsgården, 1-2 October

### Conference on Animal welfare at slaughter and killing for disease control

An interesting conference on the welfare of animals at slaughter and killing for disease control will be held in Hindåsgården (Sweden), on 1 and 2 October to “discuss the topic with decision makers and to raise awareness among industry and politicians”<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>

[http://www.fve.org/news/position\\_papers/animal\\_welfare/fve\\_06\\_033\\_aw\\_slaughter.pdf](http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_welfare/fve_06_033_aw_slaughter.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www-conference.slu.se/animalwelfare/>

The programme proposes 14 lectures spread over three sessions. Moderators are Björn Dahlén (Swedish Board of Agriculture), Robert Huey (FVE), and Caroline Planté (OIE). A study tour is planned in Skara on 3 October.

## Welfare of seals

### Commission proposes trade ban in seal products

On 23 July, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation banning the trading of seal products within, into, and from the European Union<sup>5</sup>. The Regulation aims to ensure that products derived from seals killed and skinned in ways that cause pain, distress and suffering are not found on the European market. Trade in seal products would only be allowed where guarantees can be provided that hunting techniques consistent with high animal-welfare standards were used and that the animals did not suffer unnecessarily.

Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for the Environment said: "We propose a ban on the placing on the market and importing into EU, transiting through, and exporting from the European Union on seal products. Seal products coming from countries which practice cruel hunting methods must not be allowed to enter the EU. The EU is committed to upholding high standards of animal welfare."

Seals are hunted mainly for their skin, fat, and meat. The methods used to kill seals and their effectiveness vary considerably. These include shooting seals, clubbing or catching them in traps and nets. According to scientific opinion from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), seals can be killed rapidly and effectively by a number of methods without causing avoidable pain, distress and suffering, but evidence shows that effective killing does not always happen in practice.

<sup>5</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0469:FIN:EN:PDF>

## Council of Europe

### Work is resumed on rabbits, cattle and carp

After about two years of inactivity, the Council of Europe Convention on Farm animals has resumed its assignment. The standing committee (T-AP), responsible for the elaboration and adoption of detailed recommendations, is currently focusing on rabbits (T-AP(98) 1 rev 14), cattle (T-AP(2005)1 rev 4) and carp (T-AP(2006)1 rev 2).

The Council of Europe produces Conventions and recommendations regarding animal welfare<sup>6</sup>. These texts are legally binding once they have been signed and ratified by the countries. In the past, they often laid the basis for future national and EU legislation. The European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes) is a "framework convention" which gives principles for the keeping, care and housing of animals, in particular in intensive breeding systems.

## EFSA opinion on welfare of Atlantic salmon

### Water and feed quality, stocking density and grading main impact factors

Scientists of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) have addressed the impact of various farming systems on the welfare of Atlantic salmon. Experts of EFSA's panel on animal health and welfare (AHAW) considered that the main factors affecting Atlantic salmon welfare are: water quality, stocking density, diet and the process by which the fish are sorted by size (grading). In its risk assessment, the Panel produced a ranking system for potential welfare hazards in the various farming systems, which can be used by risk managers to gauge the welfare of the different methods. The opinion

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.coe.int/animalwelfare>

also provides recommendations for future scientific research.



**EFSA report indicates that the main factors affecting Atlantic salmon welfare are water quality, stocking density, diet and grading.**

"It is the interaction of key elements of the Atlantic salmon farming systems which play a determining role as opposed to any intrinsic differences in the farming methods themselves", commented Dr Philippe Vannier, Chair of the AHAW Panel.

This opinion will be followed by other opinions on main fish species: rainbow trout, gilthead sea bream, sea bass, carp, and European eel. The opinion of the AHAW Panel also took into account the results of the discussions of a stakeholders' meeting (including FVE) organised by EFSA. The full text of the scientific opinion, the scientific report containing all scientific available data and references to prepare the opinion, as well as the minority opinion, are available on-line<sup>7</sup>.

## Veterinarians and animal welfare

### Better visibility and better education required

The veterinarian's role in the protection of animal welfare was the topic of a recent symposium organized by the Dutch Veterinary Students' Association (DSK), Utrecht Faculty

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1211902014109.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902014109.htm)

of Veterinary Medicine and the Dutch Veterinary Association (KNMvD). Representatives from all parts of the veterinary profession, animal owners and keepers, industry, government and NGOs discussed about the role veterinarians could and should play in the protection of animal welfare.

All agreed that there is an important role to play, and that veterinarians should not hesitate to take it up. However to be effective, it should not be left to the individual veterinarian. Veterinary schools and professional organizations should take the lead in stimulating the debate, formulating opinions and communicating these. A better visibility of the profession in the field of animal welfare is crucial, according to participants, who also identified “a need for more information and (continuing) education” on animal welfare.

At the meeting, a petition calling for a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (an initiative of the World Society for the Protection of Animals) was signed by Professor Albert Cornelissen, dean of the veterinary faculty of Utrecht and Professor Ludo Hellebrekers, President of the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association.



**Professor Ludo Hellebrekers, President of the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association signing the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare**

## Public Health

### Following ‘cautious’ EFSA report on impact on animal welfare and health

#### MEPs call for a ban on food products from cloned animals

On 3 September, the European Parliament called on the Commission to submit proposals prohibiting the use of cloned animals in food products following the publication of a highly cautious report by the EU’s food safety authority on the issue. The parliamentary resolution was adopted by 622 MEPs in favour with just 32 against and 25 abstentions.

It calls for an EU-wide ban on food from cloning animals; on farming cloned animals or their offspring for food supply purposes; on placing meat or dairy products derived from cloned animals or their offspring on the market, and; on importing cloned animals, their offspring, semen or embryos as well as meat or dairy products derived from cloned animals or their offspring.

The move follows the publication of a cautious scientific opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the implications of animal cloning on food safety, animal health and the environment<sup>8</sup>, published in July.

While the experts of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) found no clear safety concerns related to food products or the environment from clones of cattle, pigs or their offspring, it notes that there are insufficient scientific data on the subject. Furthermore, the welfare of both the surrogate dam and a significant proportion of clones has been found to be affected by adverse health.

The FVE has set up a working group on cloning, with the following members: David Morton (UK, chair), Eckhard Wolf (Germany), Cesare Galli (Italy), Anna Duszewska (Poland), Hiemke Knijn (Netherlands), Constantinos Kyriakis (Greece).

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1211902019540.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902019540.htm)

**Antalya, 4-5 December**

## **Taix workshop on regional cooperation for rabies control**

A Workshop on rabies called “Regional cooperation towards eradicating the oldest known zoonotic disease in Europe” will be organised by FVE in collaboration with TAIEX and the Turkish veterinary medical association in Antalya (Turkey) on 4 and 5 December. Speakers include Nikola Belev (OIE Regional representative), Thomas Müller (Friedrich-Loeffler Institute, OIE Reference laboratory) and James Moynagh (DG Sanco).

The meeting aims to provide more insight in rabies control and to enhance regional cooperation for rabies control. Rabies does not respect borders, which is why effective control strategies need to be coordinated between countries. Inconsistent strategies in neighbouring countries are likely to fail.

Although experience has shown that rabies can be successfully eradicated if control programmes are well defined, resourced and implemented, around 8000 cases are still observed every year in Europe, of which about 60% in wildlife, 40 % in domestic animals and even, regrettably, some in humans.

While large regions in Europe have been free of terrestrial rabies for several years, mainly as a result of the vaccination programmes of foxes, the rabies incidence in Eastern European countries remains high. In 2006, there were 565 cases in Croatia, 293 in Romania, 119 in Serbia/Montenegro, 2020 in Ukraine and 230 in Turkey.

On 28 September, World Rabies Day was held to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of rabies prevention<sup>9</sup>. Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal. Once symptoms of the disease develop, rabies is nearly always fatal to both animals and humans.

<sup>9</sup> [www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)

**Medicines**

**European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines**

## **“Best Practice Framework” published for antibiotics in farm animals**

This month, the European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals (EPRUMA) published a “Best Practice Framework” for the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals in the EU<sup>10</sup>. The document explains the licensing requirements antimicrobials as well as guidelines for the choice, storage, administration and record keeping of these medicines.

Purpose of the document is to “contribute to the continued effectiveness of antimicrobials”. Antimicrobials have revolutionised veterinary practice since their introduction more than 60 years ago. Many of these early medicines are still successfully used today although loss of efficacy through resistance development is an ever-present risk. According to EPRUMA, “*a guiding principle with respect to antimicrobials should be ‘as little as possible, as much as necessary’*”.

EPRUMA, 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).

**30 September 2008**

## **France organises meeting to debate EU veterinary medicines legislation**

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.fve.org/news/position\\_papers/medicines/epruma\\_best\\_practice\\_antibiotics\\_final\\_0908.pdf](http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/medicines/epruma_best_practice_antibiotics_final_0908.pdf)

*“Veterinary medicinal products legislation: opportunities for improvement”* is the title of a meeting held in Maisons-Alfort (France) on 30 September 2008. Organised by the French Food Safety Agency (AFSSA) on the occasion of the French EU presidency, the meeting proposes a number of presentations spread over two sessions: “Improvement of European veterinary legislation: what are the strategic objectives?” and “Impact assessment of the current framework: possible solutions and next steps”. A third session comprises four workshops (harmonisation towards the single market; simplification/improvement of the regulatory framework; generics; innovation and availability).

Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive director, will attend, giving a presentation and being moderator for one session.

**18 November 2008**

## European Antibiotic Awareness Day

18 November will mark the first-ever European Antibiotic Awareness Day, which will be celebrated by all 27 EU Member States. European Antibiotic Awareness Day, an initiative of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), will be an annually recurring event that will raise awareness about the risks associated with inappropriate use of antibiotics and how to take antibiotics responsibly.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing health problem. In conclusions adopted at the Council meeting on 10 June in Luxembourg<sup>11</sup>, EU health ministers stressed that the spread of micro-organisms resistant to antimicrobials increased morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases, resulting not only in deteriorated quality of life for the affected patients, but also in additional health costs.

The Council emphasised the relationship between the use of antibiotics and AMR. Inappropriate use of antimicrobials

<sup>11</sup>

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/News\\_and\\_Documents/Council\\_Conclusions/June/0609\\_EPSCO-AMR.pdf](http://www.eu2008.si/en/News_and_Documents/Council_Conclusions/June/0609_EPSCO-AMR.pdf)

throughout the health care system is the main cause for the prevalence of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in hospitals. Ministers also recognised that there is evidence for a link between the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals and the occurrence of resistant bacterial strains.



A European Health Initiative   
European Antibiotic Awareness Day Logo

## Education

### Undergraduate veterinary education

## FVE: animal welfare teaching should include practical aspects

The way animal welfare is taught differs from school to school. This transpires from the study “Animal Welfare Teaching in European Veterinary Faculties”, the results of which will be presented as a poster by Nancy De Bryne (FVE) at the Second global OIE conference on animal welfare, held in Cairo from 20-22 October.

The study, based on evaluation reports from 43 veterinary schools in 24 countries, shows that, in some schools, animal welfare teaching is firmly embedded throughout the whole curriculum, while in others, it is non-existent. Furthermore, animal welfare is almost exclusively presented in terms of legislation rather than from an applied perspective.

FVE recommends that animal welfare studies include practical aspects, such as the welfare on farms, during transport or at slaughter, instead

of merely addressing the legislative aspects. Part of the teaching should be done in an interactive way promoting critical analysis of situations from different perspectives.

The FVE recalls that 'animal ethology and protection' is on the list of subjects that must be taught within the veterinary curriculum for the degree to be recognised in other EU Member States<sup>12</sup>.



Animal Welfare Teaching in Europe poster

## FVE & Professional matters

### World Veterinary Association

#### Tjeerd Jorna elected President of the WVA

The Presidents' Assembly of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) elected Dr Tjeerd Jorna as President during its congress in Vancouver, on 31 July. Tjeerd Jorna, who led the FVE as President from 2003 to 2007, has demonstrated his ability to bring people and

ideas together, to build bridges and to inspire people to identify and achieve common goals.

Dr Jorna will lead the WVA until the 2011 Congress in Capetown, South Africa.



Tjeerd Jorna, President of the World Veterinary Association

### Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

#### European horse vets meet in Liverpool

The board of the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) met in Liverpool on 10 September, at the occasion of the congress of the British Equine Veterinary Association.

Topics included the identification of equidae, MRL legislation, the transport of horses, the trade of slaughter horses, the surveillance of emerging diseases, the Veterinary act and Code of conduct.

For further information, please contact [info@feeva.org](mailto:info@feeva.org).

<sup>12</sup> Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications

## European Parliament

### MEPs issue written declaration on the significance of the liberal professions

A written declaration on the significance of the liberal professions was presented by Angelika Niebler and four other MEPs<sup>13</sup>. It underlines the important role of the liberal professions, which “often provide public services in core areas of general interest, even in rural and economically less attractive areas”, and calls on the Commission to “make sure that the liberal professions are not assessed solely on the basis of market-economy criteria”. It warns against the consequences of “premature liberalisation” and furthermore invites the Commission to “respect the self-governing structure of the liberal professions” and “consider more democratic methods when embarking on further reforms”.

The written declaration will need the majority of the signatures from MEPs by 23 October to be adopted as an official resolution by the European Parliament.



Dr Ovidio Picciotti

## In Memoriam

### Ovidio Picciotti

The FVE Italian delegation announces the death of Dr Ovidio Picciotti, in July. As leader of the *Sindacato Italiano Veterinari Medicina Pubblica* (SIVeMP) during the early 1990s, he motivated the Italian National delegation to join FVE, and the SIVeMP to join the EASVO and UEVH Sections. Under his leadership and together with the *Federazione Nazionale Ordini Veterinari Italiani* (FNOVI), it was decided to hold the spring FVE session in Rome in 1993.

Retired since many years, he remained active as fishery sector expert and veterinary lobbyist on a local scale.

<sup>13</sup>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sidesSearch/search.do?type=WDECL&language=EN&term=6&author=4289>



## **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, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

### **Sections**

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

### **Observers**

Ukraine, Albania

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