



Federation of  
Veterinarians  
of Europe



Newsletter February 2009

## 200 Years Charles Darwin Theory and Practice

This year, it is 200 years ago that Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England. It also is 150 years ago that he published his famous work "On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life"<sup>1</sup>. On the base of the observations he made during his voyage around the world on board of H.M.S. Beagle, he explained his ideas about evolution through natural selection, the struggle for live and the survival of the fittest.

With these ideas he truly changed our views on the relation between animals and people, and the commonality of all species. Especially since 1953, when James Watson and Francis Crick found that the double helix structure of DNA carries life's hereditary information, we are able to understand the common evolutionary process, at least the theory behind it.

But have we also managed to come to terms with the practical consequences of Darwin's ideas? Read the last sentences of the conclusion of his book:

*It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with many birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependant on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us. .... There is the grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and almost wonderful have been, and are being evolved.*

These are words of a man, amazed by and full of respect and admiration for what he observed in the world around him. Plants, insects, birds and other living beings, including mankind, are twigs from the same tree. The gap between man and other species is much narrower than often perceived.

However, there is a difference. We, more than any other creature, are able to reflect on what we do and what consequences this might have for ourselves and for others, direct or in the future. This is something we should always keep in mind when making use of animals or the environment they need to live in, or when drafting rules regulating such topics. When working with animals, and particularly in relation to their health and welfare, we shouldn't forget the words of another famous person: The Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".

Jan Vaarten  
FVE Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> <http://darwin-online.org.uk/>



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## Animal Health

### European Veterinary Week

#### Road show continues in 2009 – as does the Veterinary Week project

After its launch in Brussels, the bus of the European Veterinary Week travelled to Karlsruhe, Hanover, Kalotina (Bulgaria), Marche-en-Famenne (Belgium) and Stuttgart – all before end 2008. In the first weeks of 2009, the bus was seen at the International 'Grüne Woche' in Berlin, the Agro & Mashepo international exhibition in Budapest and the Zootecnia 2009 livestock fair in Thessaloniki. On 11 February, the Veterinary Week bus was also present at the annual European Pet Night in Brussels, attended by nearly 200 people.



Veterinary Week stand at European Pet night

Many other visits are planned until end 2009, including to the Agra Fair Plovdiv (Bulgaria), the Agricultural Salon in Paris, Agro Braga in Portugal, Fima Ganadera in Spain and the Vetfair in the Czech Republic.

The success of the European Veterinary Week has led to the continued promotion of animal health legislation and



of the role of the veterinarian, also in 2009. The

launch of the second EU Veterinary Week event will take place in Brussels in the week of 21-25 September 2009. DG Sanco and FVE are currently planning this follow-up event.

### World Crisis

#### EU reintroduces export refunds for dairy products

On 23 January, the Commission decided to reintroduce export refunds for certain dairy products for the first time since June 2007. The decision was taken in response to the serious situation on the EU dairy market, caused by a recent sharp fall in producer prices. Export refunds can be paid to allow EU exporters to continue to be present on the world market. The EU will respect the limits on subsidised exports set by the World Trade Organisation. The Commission announced that it will continue to observe market developments and adjust the refunds accordingly. The measure will only apply for as long as market conditions so dictate.

### Food and Veterinary Office

#### Check out your country's profile

A country profile is a compilation of key information used by the Commission to support its monitoring and enforcement activities on food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the Member States of the EU. This information comes mainly from the results of audits and inspections carried out by the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). Each country profile gives an overview of how food control systems in each Member State are organised and a summary of progress in the implementation of recommendations made by the FVO to national authorities following its audits and inspections in recent years. For further information, please see [http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country\\_profiles\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/country_profiles_en.cfm)

## Animal Welfare

### Welfare at Slaughter and Killing

#### **FVE: slaughter without stunning is “unacceptable”**

Early February, the Environment Committee adopted the draft opinion by Jens Holm MEP (EUL/NGL, Sweden), regarding the protection of animals at the time of killing. The opinion includes a provision for the post-cut stunning of animals intended for ritual slaughter. Several amendments were also adopted including a call for the Commission to present a legislative proposal on the slaughter of fish within five years and the phasing out of the use of water bath electrocution of poultry before 2014. The text also included a request to the Commission to submit a proposal for the establishment of conditions and rules on the use of mobile slaughterhouses. The Parliament’s opinion also opposes the killing of animals by electrocution or gassing with a view to obtaining their fur.

While FVE welcomes the draft Regulation, it finds the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning “*unacceptable under any circumstances*” from an ethical and animal welfare viewpoint. Currently, in certain EU countries such as France and Belgium, a high proportion of animals (sheep in particular) are killed without stunning. Meat from these animals is sold on the domestic or export market, even to non-religious consumers who are unaware of the real conditions of slaughter. Therefore, the FVE believes if animals are killed without prior stunning, the operator should ensure that these animals are destined for a religious market only. Moreover, these animals should be stunned immediately following the cut.

The FVE stresses that “*consumers have the right to be informed*” if the meat is derived from an animal not stunned prior to slaughter.

Furthermore, the FVE strongly believes that in order to assure a proper implementation of the Regulation, the Official Veterinarian (OV) must have a central role in the controls relating to animal welfare in the slaughterhouse. Therefore, according to FVE, the role of the OV needs to be specifically stated in the Standard Operating Procedures. The role should be stated

in the verification of competence of the trained individual – including the need for retraining should the individual found to be incompetent<sup>1</sup>.

The report, presented by Janusz Wojciechowski MEP (UEN, PL) in the Agriculture Committee, was also discussed for the first time in Committee last week. New amendments to the report were to be tabled before 19 February 2009, as the adoption of the text in plenary is expected in April. Meanwhile the Czech presidency has announced that it will try to conclude this dossier before the end of its presidency.

### Promoting Farm Animal Welfare

#### **Global conference calls for international collaboration on animal welfare**

An international conference has called for collaboration on animal welfare to meet the challenges of climate change, increasing food demand, and the need to remain competitive in a global marketplace. Participants of the Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare, held in Brussels on 20 and 21 January, concluded that adopting higher welfare farming methods “*would bring benefits to the farmer, consumer, environment, and developed and*



*developing countries alike*”<sup>2</sup>. This could be facilitated by sharing best practice and assisting developing countries with their farming.

Adolfo Sansolini, trade policy advisor for the RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, Eurogroup for Animals and WSPA, commented: “*Collaborating on animal welfare is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Problems such as the financial crisis and*

<sup>1</sup>

[http://www.fve.org/news/position\\_papers/animal\\_welfare/fve\\_08\\_085\\_slaughterwelfareamendments.pdf](http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_welfare/fve_08_085_slaughterwelfareamendments.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.animalwelfareandtrade.com>

*climate change will affect all of us, but sharing good practice can lead to the best ideas being quickly carried out across the globe.”*

*“Many trade partners share the European concerns and would also like to upgrade their standards, said Michael Scannell (DG Sanco), who gave a presentation about the European Commission’s approach to the import of animal products. “Animal welfare is increasingly recognised as a business opportunity, as we have seen already by the many initiatives by retailers.” He went on to explain that the European Commission has been urging WTO for many years to take animal welfare into account. “If the issue is not taken up by WTO, private standards will fill the void”, he said.*

The conference brought together over 400 participants from 55 countries, including farmers, retailers, politicians, academics, international institutions and animal welfare organisations, in order to present positive experiences of inclusion of animal welfare in the trade environment. After the conferences of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in 2005 and 2008 (Cairo), this is the third meeting of its kind. The event, which followed a successful forum held in Brussels last April, was organised by DG External Trade and DG Sanco of the European Commission, together with Eurogroup for Animals, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Compassion in World Farming, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). These conferences are witness of the growing importance of animal welfare for governments, retailers and consumers worldwide.

The OIE’s new animal welfare policy is set to have an influence on animal welfare worldwide. At the meeting, it transpired that it seemed inevitable that animal welfare will become part of the WTO-SPS framework in the long run. It was generally recognised that OIE standards should be the ones taken aboard as part of the international trade standards.

A task force will now work on the issue of animal welfare in trade, and is expected to draft practical implementations for application of welfare standards at international level.

## Food and Agriculture Organisation

### Experts advise on how to implement good farm animal welfare practices

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) convened an Expert Meeting to provide advice on ‘Capacity building to implement good animal welfare practices’, in Rome, from 30 September to 3 October 2008.



The experts participated in their independent professional capacities and not as representatives of their governments, employers or institutions. They replied to an open call and were then selected on the basis of their experience and geographic diversity. The meeting was associated with an open call for interested organizations and individuals to present their views and positions to the experts in an open forum.

One of the questions during the meeting was how FAO could “*contribute to inform and support producers in developing countries to access the benefits of good animal welfare practices?*”

At the meeting Nancy De Briyne (FVE) presented FVE’s policies and actions in relation to animal welfare.

It was decided that FAO would give more explicit and strategic attention to animal welfare in its capacity-building activities in countries with developing economies. For more information please see the web site with executive summary of the meeting report with the experts recommendations<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>

[http://www.fao.org/Ag/AGInfo/home/en/news\\_archive/2009\\_animalwelfare.html](http://www.fao.org/Ag/AGInfo/home/en/news_archive/2009_animalwelfare.html)

## Pet Animals

### EU-wide ban on the trade of cat and dog fur

A comprehensive EU ban on imports, exports and intra-Community trade in cat and dog fur and products containing such fur entered into force on 1 January 2009<sup>4</sup>.

The European Commission proposed a ban on cat and dog fur in November 2006, due to evidence that cat and dog fur was being placed on the European market, usually undeclared or disguised as synthetic or other types of fur. Diverging national bans on cat and dog fur threatened to disrupt the single market. The vast majority of cat and dog fur is believed to be imported from third countries, notably China, where the rearing of these animals for their fur is practiced. The Commission's proposal for a regulation was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on 11 December 2007.

It assures EU citizens that cat and dog fur will no longer be sold anywhere in the EU through a harmonised approach, prohibiting all production, marketing and imports and exports of cat and dog fur in the EU.

## Laboratory Animals (1)

### Commission proposes to strengthen the protection of animals used in scientific experiments

On 5 November, the European Commission presented a proposal in order to minimise the number of animals used in scientific procedures and significantly improve the treatment of the animals still needed for safety testing and biomedical research throughout the European Union<sup>5</sup>. It should also enhance the quality of research conducted in the EU and ensure high standards of human and animal health and environmental protection. The new proposal

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/fur\\_cats\\_dogs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/fur_cats_dogs_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm)

contains a number of measures designed to tighten up current EU legislation. It states that it will be compulsory to carry out an ethical evaluation, and authorise projects using animals at Member State level.

The proposal contains a ban on the use of great apes (chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orang-utans) in scientific procedures. However, research on great apes could still take place for the conservation of the species itself, and is allowed if necessary in the case of a serious pandemic affecting the human population in Europe.

The scope of the proposal has been widened to include specific invertebrate species, foetal forms from last 3rd of their development, and animals used in basic research, education and training.



Housing and care measures for experimental animals are set out for the first time. Based on Recommendation 2007/526/EC, minimum requirements for housing and care will be firmly laid down in the new Directive.

The proposal, a revision of Directive 86/609/EEC, will be adopted through the co-decision procedure and now awaits transmission to the European Parliament and the Council for their official positions on the draft.

## Laboratory Animals (2)

### Non-human primates still essential for research, says SCHER

At the moment, science cannot do without non-human primates (NHP). This is the conclusion of the scientific opinion of the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risk (SCHER), on the need for non-human primates in biomedical research, production and testing

of products and devices, which was adopted on 13 January<sup>6</sup>.

According to SCHER, animals should only be used in medical research “when it is unavoidable and when appropriate and validated alternative methods are not available”. However, from a scientific point of view, the use of NHPs is currently essential for scientific progress in a number of areas of disease biology, research and in safety testing:

- Development of pharmaceuticals, in particular safety testing, to assess potential toxicity in animals to identify unacceptable adverse reactions in humans.
- Understanding the pathophysiology of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS.
- Learning how complex brains of primates (humans included) are structured and function. In addition, NHPs are the best model for some human brain conditions and have been critical in developing and testing novel and current treatments.
- Developing and testing of xenotransplantation methods.

Around 12 million animals are used each year in scientific procedures in the EU, and of these, around 10,000 are non-human primates.

## Public Health

### Zoonosis Report 2007

## More *Campylobacter*, less salmonellosis, listeriosis still of concern

In 2007, *Campylobacter* infections were on the increase in humans, there were fewer cases of salmonellosis and still a worrying number of *Listeria* infections. These were the findings, in short, of the Community Zoonoses Report for 2007, published on 20 January by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)<sup>7</sup>.

In 2007, infections from *Campylobacter* were again the most frequently reported zoonotic disease in humans across the EU, with 200,507 cases compared to 175,561 in the previous year, an increase of 14.2%. Regarding Salmonella, although the number of cases showed a decrease for a fourth successive year, 151,995 people were affected by the bacterium in 2007 compared to 164,011 in 2006. The number of *Listeria* infections in humans in 2007 remained at the same level as in 2006 with 1,554 confirmed cases; *Listeria* also showed the highest mortality rate (20%), especially among vulnerable groups.

In foodstuffs *Campylobacter*, which generally causes diarrhoea, cramps and fever in humans, was mostly found in raw poultry meat with an average of 26% of samples showing contamination. In live animals, *Campylobacter* was also found in poultry, pigs and cattle.

Poultry and pig meat were reported as the foods most frequently associated with *Salmonella*. On average, 5.5 % of all fresh poultry meat samples were found to be contaminated. Eggs and egg products were also found to be contaminated, while the bacterium was only rarely detected in raw dairy products, vegetables and fruits. In animal populations, *Salmonella* was most frequently detected in poultry flocks. In 2007, the Commission launched a new control programme against *Salmonella* in breeding poultry flocks and at the end of that year 15 Member States had already met the legal target of 1%, which is set for end 2009.

Verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC) accounted for a total of 2,905 human infections. Among animals and foodstuffs, VTEC was most often reported in cattle and bovine meat, and very rarely in vegetables. Also, the number of yersiniosis cases in humans in 2007 was 8,792, with *Yersinia* being found mostly in pigs and pig meat. The two parasitic zoonoses trichinellosis and echinococcosis were reported in 779 and 834 human infections respectively.

The report also provides data on other zoonotic diseases, such as brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis and rabies.

<sup>6</sup>

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_110.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_110.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1211902267941.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902267941.htm)

## EFSA Publishes Task Force Findings

### Risk factor analysis of *Salmonella* contamination of pigs at slaughter

Although *Salmonella*-infected pigs are more likely to lead to *Salmonella*-contaminated carcasses, these could also come from uninfected pigs. Moreover, the *Salmonella* carcass contamination was more likely to happen in some slaughterhouses than in others. These are among the findings in the analysis of the risk factors related to *Salmonella* in



slaughter pigs within the European Union (EU), published by EFSA's Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection on 22 December<sup>8</sup>. The report will serve as a scientific basis to assist Member States in defining the best control measures for reaching the *Salmonella* reduction targets to be defined by the European Commission.

The Task Force recommended that pig industry pay specific attention to preventing *Salmonella* spread within slaughterhouses, as they proved to have an important role in the contamination of pig meat.

## Salmonella Control

### Ban on the sale of table eggs from *Salmonella*-positive or unchecked flocks

As of January 1 2009, all eggs from flocks of laying hens not monitored for the presence of *Salmonella* or found positive to *Salmonella Enteritidis* or *Salmonella Typhimurium*, cannot be sold as table eggs. Instead, they must be processed as egg products and pasteurised in order to eliminate all risks for consumers. The measure is expected to considerably reduce the number of human salmonellosis infections.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa\\_locale-1178620753812\\_1211902236519.htm](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902236519.htm)

Restrictions on table eggs from flocks of layers infected with *Salmonella* were first adopted in 2003<sup>9</sup>. Initially, the restrictions were to enter into force at the end of 2009. However, high *Salmonella* prevalence was recorded in flocks during an EU survey in 2005-2006, and in 2007 it was decided to accelerate the regulations' enforcement, and to set January 1 2009 as the new date to enforce these restrictions<sup>10</sup>.

Eggs and egg products are responsible for more than half of all outbreaks of human salmonellosis in the EU, according to the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) annual reports on the monitoring of zoonoses. More than 95% of these infections are caused by *Salmonella Enteritidis* or *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

The measures also apply to eggs imported from third countries. Only Croatia, Norway and Switzerland have provided equivalent guarantees on the safety of eggs.

## One Health

### Cow pox infection in humans due to pet rats

Twelve patients with skin lesions, five of which were diagnosed as being infected with the cowpox virus, have been notified early 2009 to the French Institute of Disease Surveillance (IVS). The infections were linked to contact with rats bought in one of six pet shops between mid December and mid January. More recent data identified 32 pet shops in France with rats that are carrier of the cow pox virus. Apparently, all rats originate from two batches of animals imported from the Czech Republic. Also in Germany, where 21 cases were notified since December, the link between the recent purchase of a pet rat and the occurrence of cow pox infection was made.

Cowpox is an endemic zoonosis in western Europe, including in France, where small rodents are the main reservoir of the virus. Most rats show respiratory signs and sometimes skin lesions before they die. Infections in humans are rare but not exceptional. No human-to-human transmission has been observed.

<sup>9</sup> through Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents

<sup>10</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 1237/2007

## Medicines

### European Medicines Agency

#### Henk Vaarkamp appointed Board member



Henk Vaarkamp (the Netherlands) has been appointed member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), for a period of three years. He will represent the veterinary profession.

Apart from a chairman, the EMA Management Board has one representative and one alternate for each EU member country, as well as representatives of the European Commission (4), the European Parliament (3), patients' organisations (2), doctor's organisations (1) and veterinarians' organisations (1).

The FVE congratulates Prof. Dr Vaarkamp with this appointment.

### EMA Recommendation

#### First bluetongue vaccine to be granted marketing authorisation

On 18 February, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has for the first time recommended granting a marketing authorisation 'under exceptional circumstances' for an inactivated bluetongue vaccine through the centralised procedure, "*given the recent epidemiological situation in Europe and the high risk of recurrence of outbreaks of bluetongue disease due to serotype 8 in the coming months*".

The EMA's recommendation is seen as "*an important step*" towards the availability of safe and efficacious vaccines across the European Union.

The vaccine BTVPUR AISap 8 (Merial) is intended for the active immunisation of sheep and cattle to prevent viraemia (the presence of virus in the blood stream) and to reduce clinical signs caused by the bluetongue virus serotype 8. It is expected that the marketing authorisation is granted by the European Commission within 90 days. The exceptional marketing authorisation will need to be re-evaluated every year.

### Availability of Medicines

#### Extension of positive list expected

The revision of the EU legislation on residues of pharmacologically active substances in foods, has lead the European Parliament to address the issue of the (un-)availability of veterinary medicinal products. One of the amendments tabled by Mrs. Avril Doyle, the Parliament's rapporteur for the residues legislation, and adopted by the Parliament, relates to article 10 of the medicines Directive. (EU/2001/82).

This article gives the veterinarian the possibility - in case no medicine is authorised for a certain indication - to use products authorised for other species or indications. In addition to that, the provision allows for the use of a certain number of listed substances for horses, without excluding these animals from the food chain. Until now, one of the criteria to be listed is that the substance has to be *essential* for the treatment of equidae. According to the amendment, the scope of the list will be extended with substances, which *bring added clinical benefit compared to other treatment options available for equidae*. The new provision is expected to come into force this summer. The European Federation of Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) together with FVE already started to make a proposal on how the amendment could be implemented.

## February Meeting CVMP

### **BTV vaccine field safety data & Cephalosporin resistance**

During its 10-12 February meeting, the Committee for medicinal products for veterinary use (CVMP) endorsed the public report on field safety data from the EU arising from the 2008 national vaccination campaigns against bluetongue disease, in which several vaccines were used. The report is based on a review prepared by the Pharmacovigilance Working Party and takes into account the information provided by the Member States. The report will be published shortly on the EMEA website ([www.emea.europa.eu](http://www.emea.europa.eu)).

The CVMP also adopted a Public Statement on the use of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins in food producing animals in the EU: development of resistance and impact on human and animal health. This public statement critically reviews recent information on the use of these cephalosporins, their effect on development of resistance in bacterial species that are of importance for human and animal health, and the potential impact on human and animal health. The CVMP will provide an additional document elaborating on the recommendations to national competent authorities and marketing authorisation holders.

## EMEA Prepares Access Policy

### **EudraVigilance: increased transparency regarding adverse drug reactions**

In the framework of the EU Transparency Initiative, the European medicines agency (EMA) is preparing a EudraVigilance Access Policy<sup>11</sup>, in order to provide stakeholders such as national competent authorities, healthcare professionals, patients and consumers as well as the pharmaceutical industry with information related to adverse reaction data. The access to EudraVigilance



<sup>11</sup> <http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/vet/euleg/11370008en.pdf>

Veterinary should facilitate the conduct of pharmacovigilance, and allow communicating adverse event information to healthcare professionals and the general public. The output will be accompanied with a general guidance on the nature and interpretation of the data.

A stepwise approach is suggested, with access during the first phase to the national competent authorities and, in a second phase, to healthcare professionals and the general public.

## 12-13 March 2009

### **EMEA and IFAH to hold Info Day**

The European Medicines Agency and the European branch of the International Federation of Animal health will hold a meeting on 12-13 March, on 'The latest developments in scientific review, legislation and marketing authorisation procedures'. For further information, please see the EMEA web site<sup>12</sup>.

## Education

### **European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

### **EAEVE web site publishes 'evaluation status' of veterinary schools**

On the occasion of its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary, a new web site was launched by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). Founded in 1988, the primary objective of the EAEVE is to monitor the harmonization of the



<sup>12</sup>

[http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/conferenceflyers/Infoday\\_Programme\\_Mar2009v5.pdf](http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/conferenceflyers/Infoday_Programme_Mar2009v5.pdf)

minimum standards of veterinary education, as set down in the study programme for veterinary surgeons in Directive 2005/36. Together with the FVE, it forms the European Committee on Veterinary Education (ECOVE), which carries out visits to veterinary establishments throughout Europe to evaluate whether they conform to the Directive.

In the view of increased transparency, the web site now carries an update of the status of their member's establishments<sup>13</sup>. There are four categories: visited and approved establishments (currently 42); visited and conditionally approved establishments (3); visited establishments and not approved (18); and establishments that have not yet been visited. The latter have two groups: those with a visit pending (21) and those that have not yet applied for visitation (13).

An interactive overview of approved and non-approved schools is also available on the FVE web site<sup>14</sup>.

- The 'on-call time' which, even if inactive, should be counted as part of the working time.
- The so-called opt-out clause (three years after adoption of the Directive), which should be deleted. Instead, flexibility would be ensured by extending the reference period to twelve months.



The negotiations relating to this Directive will now go into a final stage of conciliation. The President of the Council shall convene a meeting of the Conciliation Committee with representatives of the Council and of the European Parliament. The purpose is to reach an approval on this Directive proposal within six weeks.

## FVE & Professional matters

### Working Time Directive

#### MEPs want “no exceptions” to the 48-hour week

Members of European Parliament want no exceptions to the 48 hours' maximum weekly working time. By adopting the Report of Alejandro Cercas MEP on the amendment of the working time Directive<sup>15</sup> on 17 December 2008, the European Parliament expressed its disagreement with the Council – which had adopted a common position on 9 June 2008.

The main points of controversy were:

- The limit of working time to “a weekly 48 hours maximum”. This working time would be calculated on annual base, which means on a reference period of one year and not of three months.

<sup>13</sup>

[http://www.eaeve.org/fileadmin/downloads/establishments\\_status/ESTABLISHMENTS%20STATUS10decnew.pdf](http://www.eaeve.org/fileadmin/downloads/establishments_status/ESTABLISHMENTS%20STATUS10decnew.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.fve.org/education/index.html>

<sup>15</sup> Directive 2003/88/EC regarding certain aspects of the organisation of the working time

## Service Providers in the EU

#### Professional cards: ‘not a priority’

The creation of a European Professional Card for Services Providers has been subject to much debate in the European Parliament throughout 2008. The spirit of the draft report (rapporteur: Charlotte Cedeschööld MEP) and the attitude of the European Parliament on professional cards is currently best described ‘cautious’. The draft report states that “*the added value of a European professional card (...) needs to be established for most professions*”.

Asked in January to comment on the prospects of the creation of a European Professional Card for Services Providers, Pamela Brumter-Coret, head of the ‘Regulated Professions’ Unit of DG MARKT, stated that the European Commission had “*no ongoing initiative*” on this matter at the moment.

## World Veterinary Day 2009

### **Award theme 2009: 'Veterinarians and livestock farmers, a winning partnership'**

World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008, a World Veterinary Day Award was created jointly by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in order to reward "the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession" by national veterinary associations alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body. National veterinary associations that celebrate World veterinary day alone or in cooperation with others can participate in the competition of being selected WVD award winner of the year by sending in a completed application form<sup>16</sup>.

Theme for the year 2009 is 'veterinarians and livestock farmers, a winning partnership', and the 2009 Award will reward the veterinary association who will best publicise the theme by involving the livestock farmers in the organisation of events along with all other stakeholders such as the media and the general public.

The 2009 Award (1,000 US\$) will be presented at the 77th OIE General Assembly to be held in Paris, France on 24-29 May 2009. Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2009 to the WVA secretariat (BS@ddd.dk).

## 25 February 2009

### **IMI Awareness-raising conference in Brussels**

The Internal Market Information system (IMI) is a tool to improve communication between Member State administrations. It is an electronic tool that provides a system for the exchange of information so that Member States can engage in more effective day-to-day co-

operation in the implementation of the Internal Market legislation.

'Connecting administrations, building trust' is the theme of the IMI awareness-raising conference held in Brussels on 25 February<sup>17</sup>, marking the start of the launch of the IMI Services Directive pilot project. The first exchanges of information via IMI will start in March 2009.

## World Veterinary Year 2011

### **'Vet 2011' to celebrate 250 years of the veterinary profession**

The World Veterinary Year, 2011, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the world's first veterinary school, in Lyons, France – the 'birth' of the veterinary profession. As FVE president Walter Winding indicated at the Hanover general assembly (see FVE Newsletter December 2008), the FVE will be closely involved in this commemoration.



Professor Jean-François Chary, president of the 'Vet 2011' animation and coordination committee, announced that a dedicated web site ([www.vet2011.org](http://www.vet2011.org)) would be available soon.

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.oie.int/downld/announcement-FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://www.oie.int/downld/announcement-FINAL_EN.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/imi-net/imi\\_awareness\\_raising\\_conference\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/imi_awareness_raising_conference_en.html)



## **FVE**

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of veterinary organisations from 38 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

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### **FVE Staff**

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### **Acknowledgements**

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