



Meeting with B. Van Goethem

Director Veterinary and International Affairs
European Commission DG SANCO

Monday 12 December 2011

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Practitioners

EASVO
State Officers

UEVH
Hygienists

EVERI
Veterinarians in
Education, Research
and Industry

European Commission representatives

- B. Van Goethem, Director of Directorate G, Veterinary and International affairs,
- K. Van Dijck, Head of Unit G4, Food, Alert System and Training
- D. Simonin, Unit D5 Animal Welfare

FVE delegation

- C. Buhot, president
- R. Laguens, vice –president
- J. Vaarten, executive director
- N. De Briyne, deputy executive director

FVE Strategy document

FVE president Buhot thanks the Commission for having the meeting. He apologises FVE Board members that couldn't join the meeting.

C. Buhot is pleased to present its strategy document for the coming years. The Commission accepts it with great interest.

Antimicrobials

FVE thanks the Commission for its support in the organisation of the seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance, on 18 November. Especially the presentation by Deputy Director General Ladislav Miko and the help and advice from Koen van Dijck are much appreciated.

In line with the announced EU strategy and anticipating on future introduction of legal instruments, FVE will continue to work on its action points to stimulate a transparent and responsible use of antimicrobials in food animals.

In relation to the responsible use of medicines, FVE wishes to ask whether funds could be made available to support the promotion of the EPRUMA project in the EU, for example through the organisation of seminars and workshops.

The Commission replies that they would look into it, taking into account what has been done in the medical field.

New Animal Health Law

According to our information the latest version of the new animal health law attributes several tasks and responsibilities to the veterinarians.

FVE is concerned that in the document there is no clarity about conditions that have to be met to be mandated to practice veterinary medicine. Neither is there any reference to national licensing systems. Both at member state level and at EU level it should be clear who is authorized to work as a veterinarian, as an official veterinarians as well as a private veterinarian. Mandate, responsibilities, accountability and disciplinary system should be clear.

The Commission replies that the latest version of the document is still a provisional one. Many aspects need to be worked out. FVE's point will be taken into consideration.

President

Christophe Buhot

Vice-Presidents

Hans-Joachim Götz
Robert Huey
Rafael Laguens
Karin Östensson

FVE informs the Commission that it has set up a working group on bee health. The Commission reacts by saying that the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health has approved a Commission Decision to support voluntary surveillance studies on honeybee colony losses (3.75 million Euros for the period 1 Jan 2012 until 30 June 2013).

Animal Welfare:

FVE wishes to thank the Commission for its support to jointly organize the much appreciated workshops for practitioners. Both workshops in Hungary and Spain were very successful. FVE looks forward to co-organise further workshops also thinking a workshop in central Europe might be extremely beneficial.

FVE says that more effort should be made to have legislation properly enforced; not forgetting to analyse *why* disrespect occurs in the first place.

Modernization of the meat inspection

'Meat Inspection is an important component of the overall monitoring and surveillance system of animal welfare and disease/conditions of interest.'¹ In addition, ante mortem and post mortem inspection are essential for identifying specific clinical signs as indicators for diseases important to both human and animal health.

In order to optimize the prevention and control of animal health and welfare issues and to assure consumer protection, it is crucial that the inspection of the animals is carried out by adequately trained, independent though professionally accountable, official veterinarians.

Additionally, the independence and integrity of the official veterinarian is indispensable in providing the consumer with the assurance that animal health, animal welfare and public health standards are being maintained, from farm to fork.

FVE urges the Commission to maintain the role of the official veterinarian in the slaughterhouse. It will convey the same messages to the relevant Committees in the EU Parliament.

Veterinary Week

FVE very much values the good collaboration in the organisation of EU Veterinary Week. It has become a well-established and successful event that should be continued. It remains very important to continue to emphasize the importance of good veterinary services throughout the EU. FVE also appreciates the involvement of other stakeholders in the organization of the event, but underlines that the theme of the event should remain an inclusive one comprising the health and welfare of animals and people.

The Commission confirmed to continue the Veterinary Week.

Any Other Business

One of the Commission representatives at the meeting recommends the veterinary profession to take a strong position against those veterinarians that misuse antimicrobials. It must be very clear that this is unacceptable. Low penalties or fines that are only fraction of the earnings made are not helpful.

¹ Scientific Opinion on the public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat (swine), page