

Policies **and Actions**



one profession
one vision
one voice



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe

Rue Defacqz, 1 B - 1000 Bruxelles
Tel. 32 2 533 70 20 - Fax. 32 2 537 28 28
info@fve.org - www.fve.org



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe



Dear Reader,

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is the European umbrella organisation for veterinarians in wider Europe. Founded in 1975, FVE now represents 44 national veterinary organisations in 36 European countries, including all 27 EU Member States. It also includes 4 Sections, each of which represents key groups within the veterinary profession: practitioners, hygienists, state veterinary officers and veterinarians in education, research and industry. Through its member organisations FVE represents approximately 200 000 veterinarians.

Our task is to unite and represent the whole veterinary profession, in all its diversity, across the whole of Europe. Our aim is to create the right conditions so we can carry out the tasks society has conferred on us: to care for animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.

Further to FVE's Strategy 2006 – 2010 "Improving the health and welfare of animals and people", this brochure will give you an update on the most recent developments in our strategies and policies. It also provides you with a summary of our activities and the views we hold.

More than ever we are aware that animal health, animal welfare and public health are strongly interconnected. Good animal health is essential for good animal welfare and vice versa. Disease prevention and control will save animals from pain and discomfort. It also helps to avoid or reduce economical damage and/or emotional distress for the animal owners and - in particular in the case of severe disease outbreaks – also for other people, industries and official bodies. But even more so, animal health has a direct impact on public health. Animals can act as a vector for disease trans-

mission; they can also be a source for food borne infections and the so-called zoonotic diseases, which can be transferred from animals to people. Products of animal origin may, in some cases, contain residues of unwanted substances.

Risks arising from those interrelations between humans and animals are always lurking and we have to be constantly alert and well prepared. This goal can only be achieved through international co-operations. FVE fully embraces the concept of "One World - One Health" and we continuously seek to strengthen our relations with veterinary organisations and other related organisations and institutions, all over the world.

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to thank you for your support, and for the collaboration with FVE. I look forward to further strengthen our relations with you and to receiving your constructive comments on our work.

Dr Walter Winding
President FVE

Animal Welfare



Walter Winding Austria

veterinary practitioner and official veterinarian.
FVE President since 2007.

Responsibilities within the FVE Board:

Animal welfare, communication and education.

The health of animals is as important as their well-being. Health and welfare cannot be seen as separate issues. A weakened health status will affect the animals' welfare and when welfare is compromised, the animals will be more susceptible to infections and disease.

The veterinarian is the animal welfare professional par excellence, with the full range of knowledge and skills required to assess animal welfare, to identify problems and to make recommendations for improvements. FVE aims to further develop veterinary education of animal welfare, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Currently, three FVE working groups support the Federation's efforts to improve animal welfare: the Animal Welfare Labelling working group, the working group on the Transport of Live Animals and the working group on Animal Welfare around Slaughter.

As member of its advisory committee, the FVE is furthermore actively involved in the EU-funded Welfare Quality® project, which carries out research on the integration of animal welfare into the food chain. FVE is also member of the advisory Board of DIALREL, a project encouraging dialogue on issues of religious slaughter.

FVE will continue to organise working groups, hold debates, facilitate discussions and publish papers to influence government and public opinion on animal welfare issues. It will also follow these issues by active involvement in the Commission's Food Chain and Animal Health and Welfare Group, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Council of Europe.

International conferences and events organised by FVE

- Veterinary Education (Brussels, March 2006)
- Reception with Chief Veterinary Officers (October 2006)
- Animal Welfare (Belgrade, August 2006)
- Workshop on regional co-operation on disease control (Belgrade, August 2006)
- Veterinary legislation (Latvia, March 2007)
- Prevention and control of Classical Swine Fever (Romania, August 2007)
- One Health reception for Members European Parliament (December 2007)
- Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (Brussels April 2008)
- Veterinary medicines legislation (Croatia, April 2008)
- Veterinary week: Where prevention is better than cure (November 2008)
- Prevention and control of Rabies (Turkey, December 2008)

Animal Health

Animal health is one of the core competencies of veterinarians. The prevention and control of animal diseases is a major concern and a task for the veterinary profession. FVE focuses on placing the veterinarian in the centre of this role and on creating the appropriate conditions to fulfil his/her responsibilities.

In the coming years, FVE will closely follow and contribute to the development and implementation of the Community Animal Health Strategy. A critical point will be the exact definition of the scope and objectives of the new Animal Health Law. Almost equally important is the prioritisation of diseases and the implementation of the legislation by the EU Member States.

FVE will monitor the functioning and strengthening of the national veterinary services, all governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare rules. Veterinary services should be well organised, well staffed and well funded, both for "peacetime" and emergency situations.



Veterinary Medicines

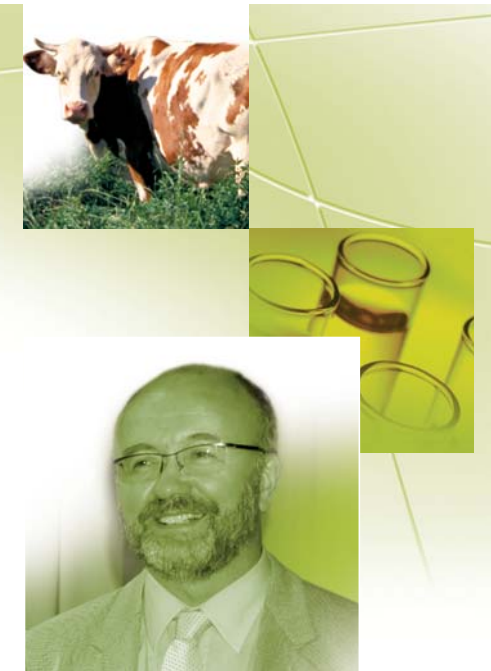
The availability of veterinary medicines is a lasting matter of concern to FVE. For optimal prevention and treatment of diseases in animals, a wide range of products is needed. Due to the long-term and uncertain drug development and registration process, high investments and relatively small margins, it may not be very attractive for the pharmaceutical industry to develop new products for certain species or uses.

The situation is further complicated by the system of decentralized (national) marketing authorisation procedures, which leads to fewer products for the smaller markets.

FVE supports the European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health, which aims to facilitate co-operation between different stakeholders in the development of veterinary medicines and diagnostics.

Furthermore, FVE encourages the responsible use of medicines in the interest of sustainable animal health and welfare and public health. Medicines should not be used to mask problems caused by inappropriate husbandry or nutrition, and FVE advocates the correct administration of medicines to animals.

The effects of a pharmaceutical substance - both the desired and the unexpected outcome - should always be evaluated and documented for improved pharmacovigilance.



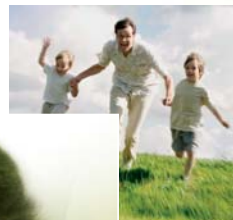
Rainer Schneichel Germany

veterinary practitioner. FVE Vice President since 2007.

Responsibilities within the FVE Board:

Animal health and veterinary medicines.

Veterinary Public Health



Margareta Widell
Sweden

veterinary hygienist.
FVE Vice President since 2007.

**Responsibilities within
the FVE Board:**
Veterinary public health.

Veterinary Public Health is defined as “the sum of all contributions to the complete physical, mental and social wellbeing of humans through an understanding and application of veterinary medical science” (WHO). By this definition, every veterinary surgeon contributes to public health, whether by the provision of healthcare for pets, protection of animal

welfare, biomedical research or by ensuring adequate animal production and food safety.

Veterinary public health has an impact on human health, by reducing the exposure to hazards arising from animals, animal products or their environment. Examples include zoonoses, vector borne infections and other communicable diseases, and veterinary products used in animals.

About 75% of the emerging diseases in humans over the past ten years originated from animals, and over 200 zoonotic diseases are known today. These numbers and the occurrence of emerging or re-emerging diseases clearly show the need for a multi-disciplinary approach and a close cooperation between veterinarians and physicians, epidemiologists, biologists and other professions. The veterinary profession in Europe takes its responsibility very seriously, and aims to strengthen links with the human Public Health sector, in order to protect and improve animal and public health on a global scale.

By ensuring the control of zoonoses, the responsible use of medicines and the safety and quality of food from animal origin, veterinarians contribute to human health. If this would fail, the health of large groups of people would be at risk. Politicians should be aware of this and bear in mind the essential role of veterinarians in health issues.

Food safety



FVE will continue to focus on the implementation of the food hygiene legislation and is actively involved in its current review. In all parts of the food chain – from ‘stable to table’ – veterinary input should contribute to ensure the health and welfare of animals and the safety of consumers. The role of veterinarians in veterinary public health requires a significant competence in fields such as food hazards, risk assessment procedures, food control procedures, auditing of control systems, laboratory testing methods and legal issues. Regular and effective training of veterinarians is therefore essential to maintain consumer confidence and assure continued safety of food from animal origin.

European Veterinary Code of conduct

The increase in cross-border activities and the development of a genuine Internal Market for services in the EU call for a greater convergence of professional rules at European level.

With this in mind, the FVE set up a working group in 2006, resulting in the adoption of a European Veterinary Code of Conduct in 2008. This is a standard specifying the veterinary ethics and principles of professional conduct¹ which forms a basis for similar codes developed by individual member states. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to ensure that veterinarians provide high quality services for the benefit of animal health, animal welfare and public health, so that customers can have confidence in the services provided.

Veterinary Act

Which acts should be restricted to veterinarians? And which can be delegated to qualified lay staff? These and other questions were widely debated over the past years by the FVE and have resulted in the adoption of a position paper in 2008².

The veterinary profession should be acknowledged as having a unique competence and expertise in the fields of animal health, welfare and public health. Where veterinary acts are undefined and unregulated, there is a danger that animal and public health and the welfare of animals are compromised, as is the reputation of the veterinary profession. The acts of examination, diagnosis, recommendations for subsequent action and the prescription of medicines or surgery are all strongly interlinked and should therefore be the exclusive preserve of the veterinarian. However, FVE also acknowledges the option to delegate certain acts, which should be clearly defined, subject to suitable training and supervision.

Education

FVE is committed to the quality of both undergraduate and postgraduate education. Good training is key, and all veterinary schools and faculties in Europe should meet the minimum EU legal requirements for veterinary training. It should be noted that only a so-called Master's degree obtained after five years of full-time veterinary training can lead to a license to practice.

FVE supports the idea of student exchange programmes and encourages veterinary schools and faculties to develop systems which could stimulate exchanges.

Together with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE),



Stephen Ware
United Kingdom

veterinary practitioner.
FVE Vice President since 2007.

**Responsibilities within
the FVE Board:**
Professional affairs, veterinary
education.

the FVE runs a system for the evaluation and accreditation of veterinary schools in Europe.

FVE also cooperates with EAEVE and with the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) in the European Coordination Committee for Veterinary Training (ECCVT).

(1) FVE/07/doc/079 European Veterinary Code of Conduct
(2) FVE/08/doc/009

European Enlargement



Liljana Markus-Cizelj
Croatia

veterinary researcher.
FVE Vice President since 2007.

**Responsibilities within
the FVE Board:**
Cooperation and European Diversity.

When discussing the goals of the European Union, the free movement of people, services and goods are most commonly cited. It is often forgotten that the EU was created shortly after the WW II, to ensure peace and prevent further conflict in Europe. As the European Council concluded in December 2006, "enlargement has been a success story

for the European Union and Europe as a whole. It has contributed to peace and stability throughout the continent. It has inspired reforms and has consolidated common principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The wider internal market and economic cooperation have increased prosperity and competitiveness, enabling the enlarged Union to respond better to the challenges of globalisation. Enlargement has also enhanced the EU's weight in the world and made it a stronger international partner".

The current enlargement agenda covers the countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey – all FVE members – which are likely to become EU members once they fulfil the necessary conditions.



FVE actively collaborates with TAIEX – the Technical Assistance and information Exchange Department of DG Enlargement – to prepare the candidate countries for EU membership. TAIEX and FVE successfully co-organised a number of seminars, in Belgrade (Serbia), Riga (Latvia), Podoia Brasov (Romania) and Zagreb (Croatia). TAIEX also co-funded the scientific conference on methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA); a growing problem in both animals and humans against which urgent action is required – action which should be based on a shared responsibility between the medical and veterinary professions.

FVE furthermore supports its members in countries that are not yet in the process of becoming an EU member, by assisting them to set up solid structures in the field of veterinary services, based on good relations between private practitioners and the government.

FVE will continue to assist these countries in their road to EU membership by providing information, identifying experts and expertise, discussing their problems and looking for possible solutions. Together with TAIEX, further conferences and study visits will be organised to support the set-up of strong veterinary services and to familiarize the countries with the veterinary *acquis communautaire*, for a harmonised protection of public and animal health and welfare throughout Europe.

Position Papers and other documents

- Act of Veterinary Surgery
- European code of conduct
- Protection of the welfare of animals around slaughter
- Protection of animals during transport
- FVE opinion on the Community Animal Health Policy
- Private Veterinarian and Farmer - how to establish an invaluable partnership
- Role of the Private Veterinary Practitioner in Food Hygiene Controls on Farm
- FVE comment on meat inspection
- EPRUMA Antimicrobial best practice frame work
- Standard Operating Procedure for the evaluation of establishments for veterinary education

FVE Communication

External and internal communication are a strategic priority for FVE. A new website was launched last March 2008, which presents information in a clear and user-friendly way. Since its launch, visits to the website and subscriptions to the FVE newsletter have increased.

Five times a year, an informative newsletter (circulation 5,000) is published. It covers the most relevant veterinary issues, including developments in animal health, animal welfare, public health, medicines and in the veterinary profession.

Subscription is free (contact info@fve.org).

Furthermore, an internal email letter "FVE news" is dispatched to all FVE members. It features updates and new developments in veterinary issues and FVE activities.

Links have been forged with the veterinary press in Europe through press releases and publications of FVE events, such as the FVE Conference on methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). FVE aims to strengthen its relation with the European veterinary press, in order to reach each individual veterinarian. After all, the FVE is the representative veterinary body "speaking with one voice", defending the interest of the entire veterinary profession in Europe. One profession, one vision, one voice!

FVE Team



Jan Vaarten: *Executive Director*
Nicole Schreiner: *Veterinary Policy Advisor*
Nancy De Briyne: *Deputy Executive Director*
Ulrike Tewes: *Office Manager*

Austria

Österreichische Tierärztekammer
Biberstraße 22 - 1010 Wien
Tel: +43 (0)1 512 17 66
Fax: +43 (0)1 512 14 70
Email: oe@tieraerztekammer.at
www.tieraerztekammer.at

Belgium

Union Professionnelle Vétérinaire (UPV)
Rue des Frères Grisleins 11 - 1400 Nivelles
Tel: +32 (0)67 21 21 11
Fax: +32 (0)67 21 21 14
Email: upv@upv.be
www.upv.be

Vlaamse Dierenartsenvereniging v.z.w. (VDV)

Hoogkamerstraat 40 - 9100 Sint-Niklaas
Tel: +32 (0)3 780 59 90
Fax: +32 (0)3 776 91 59
Email: info@vladiver.org
www.vladiver.org

Bosnia/Herzegovina

Veterinary Chamber of the Republic of SRPSKA
Carice Milice 46 - 78000 Banja Luka
Republika Srpska
Tel: +387 51 466 321
Fax: +387 51 466 321
Email: vetkomrs@teol.net

Bulgaria

Chamber of the Veterinary Practitioners in Bulgaria
57 Osvojobojenie Boulevard - 6300 Haskovo
Tel: +359 (0)38 624 841
Fax: +359 (0)38624 841
Email: mustafov@escom.bg

Union of the Veterinarians in Bulgaria (UVSB)

1 Adam Mitskevich Street - 1360 Sofia
Tel: +359 (0)2 925 03 19
Fax: +359 (0)2 925 07 62
Email: k_kamenov@abv.bg

Croatia

Croatian Veterinary Chamber/Hrvatska Veterinarska Komora
Planinska 2b - 10000 Zagreb
Tel: +385 1 2441 021
Fax: +385 1 2441 009
Email: hvk@hvk.hr
www.hvk.hr/index_eng.htm

Societas Veterinaria Croatica/Croatian Veterinary Society

Hrgovici 63 - 10 000 Zagreb
Tel: +385 1 383 07 57
Fax: +385 1 383 17 78
Email: hrvatsko.veterinarsko.drustvo@zg.t-com.hr
http://www.hvd.hr/

Cyprus

Pancyprrian Veterinary Association
PO Box 25284 - 1308 Nicosia

Tel: +357 2 49 66 25
Fax: +357 2 49 66 25
Email: andreas_koliandris@hotmail.com

Czech Republic

Komora veterinárních lékařů České Republiky/The Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons of the Czech Republic
Palackého 1-3 - 61242 Brno
Tel: +420 541 562 198
Tel: +420 549 256 407
Fax: +420 549 256 407
Email: vetkom@vetkom.cz
www.vetkom.cz

Denmark

Den Danske Dyrlegeforening (DDD) / Danish Veterinary Association
Emdrupvej 28A - DK-2100 København Ø
Tel: +45 38 71 08 88
Fax: +45 38 71 03 22
Email: ddd@ddd.dk
www.ddd.dk/

Estonia

Eesti Loomaarstide Ühing (ELÜ) / Estonian Veterinary Association
Kreutzwaldi 62, 51014 Tartu
Tel: +372 74 22 582
Mob: +372 50 11 882
Fax: +372 74 22 582
Email: info@vet.ee
www.vet.ee

Finland

Suomen Eläinlääkäriilitto / Finnish Veterinary Association
Mäkelänkatu 2 C - 00500 Helsinki
Tel: +358 9 7745 4819
Fax: +358 9 7745 4818
Email: sanna.hellstrom@sell.fi
www.sell.fi

France

Ordre des Vétérinaires Conseil Supérieur
34 rue Bréguet - 75011 Paris
Tel: +33 1 53 36 16 00
Fax: +33 1 53 36 16 01
Email: cso.paris@veterinaire.fr
www.veterinaire.fr/

Syndicat National des Vétérinaires

d'Exercice Libéral (SNVEL)
10 place Léon Blum - 75011 Paris
Tel: +33 1 44 93 30 00
Fax: +33 1 44 93 30 23
Email: contact@snvel.fr
www.snvel.fr; www.vetopro.fr

FYROM

Macedonian Veterinary Chamber
Ul. Lazar Pop Trajkov 5-7 - 1000 Skopje
Tel: +389 2 32 40 733
Fax: +389 2 31 14 619
Email: mvk@mvk.org.mk
www.mvk.org.mk

Germany

Bundestierärztekammer
Oxfordstraße 10 - 53111 Bonn
Tel: +49 228 72 54 60
Fax: +49 228 72 54 666
Email: geschaeftsstelle@bt-k-bonn.de
www.bundestieraerztekammer.de

Greece

Hellenic Veterinary Association
Chalkokondyli 15 - 10432 Athens
Tel: +30 210 52 26 769
Tel: +30 210 52 02 901
Fax: +30 210 52 02 935
Email: info@hva.gr;
ktiniatrikos_sillogos@yahoo.gr
www.hva.gr

Hungary

Magyar Állatorvosi Kamara (MAOK)
Istvan ut 2 - 1078, Budapest
Tel: +36 1 478 42 72
Fax: +36 1 478 42 82
Email: maok@t-online.hu
www.maok.hu

Iceland

Dýralæknafélag Islands
Posthólf 10263 - 110 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 (0) 89 79 320
Fax: +354 (0) 5409901
Email: dyr@dyris
www.dyris

Ireland

Veterinary Council of Ireland
53 Lansdowne Road - Ballsbridge - Dublin 4
Tel: +353 (0)1 668 4402
Fax: +353 (0)1 660 43 73
Email: info@vci.ie
www.vci.ie

Veterinary Ireland

13 The Courtyard - Kilcarbery Park
Nangor road - Dublin 22
Tel: +353 1 457 7976
Fax: +353 1 457 7998
Email: vetireland@eircom.net
www.veterinaryireland.ie

Italy

Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini Dei Veterinari Italiani (FNOVI)
Via del Tritone 125 - 00187 Rome
Tel: +39 (0)06 488 11 90
Tel: +39 (0)06 485 923
Fax: +39 (0)06 474 43 32
Email: info@fnovi.it; relazioni.esterne@fnovi.it
www.fnovi.it

Latvia

Latvijas Veterināraru Biedrība
Skolas iela 3 - 1010 Riga
Tel: +371 7 288747
Fax: +371 7 288747
Email: lvb@lvb.lv
www.lvb.lv

Lithuania

Lietuvos Veterinarijos Gydytoju Asociacija (LVGA) / Lithuanian Veterinary Association
Tilzes g. 18 - 47181 Kaunas
Tel: +370 37 26 79 71
Fax: +370 37 26 79 71
Email: lvga@lva.lt
www.lva.lt/lvga

Luxembourg

Association des Médecins Vétérinaires du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
31 om Biereg - LU - 9972 Lieler
Tel: +352 (0)97 95 95
Fax: +352 (0)26 95 70 77
Email: veiffener@internet.lu
www.amvlu

Malta

Malta Veterinary Association
c/o Federation of Professional Bodies
Sliema Road - Gzira
Tel: +356 7922 5363
Fax: +356 2149 2174
Email: carmeliniovella@onvol.net

Montenegro

Veterinary Chamber of Montenegro
Bul. Džordža Vasingtona bb, p.fah 43
81000 Podgorica
Email: gorasevic@cg.yu

Nederland

Koninklijke Nederlandse Maatschappij voor Diergeneeskunde (KNMvD) / The Royal Veterinary Association of the Netherlands
Postbus 421 - NL - 3990 GE Houten
Tel: +31 (0)30 63 48 900
Fax: +31 (0)30 63 48 909
Email: info@knmvd.nl
www.knmvd.nl

Norway

Den Norske Veterinærforening (DNV)
Postboks 6781 St. Olavs pl. - 0130 Oslo
Tel: +47 (0)22 99 46 00
Fax: +47 (0) 22 99 46 01
Email: dnv@vetnett.no
www.vetnett.no

Poland

Krajowa Izba Lekarsko-Weterynaryjna
Al. Przysiężni 1 - 00-565 Warszawa
Tel: +48 (0)22 622 09 55
Tel: +48 (0)22 628 93 35
Fax: +48 (0)22 628 93 35
Email: vetpol@vetpol.org.pl
www.vetpol.org.pl

Portugal

Ordem dos Médicos Veterinários
Rua Gomes Freire Edif Escola Sup Medicina
Veterinária Lisboa - 1169-014 Lisboa
Tel: +351 (0)213 129 370
Fax: +351 (0)213 129 379
Email: omv@omv.pt
www.omv.pt

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Sindicato Nacional dos Médicos Veterinários
Rua Victor Cordon 30, 2-ESQ - 1200 Lisboa
Tel: +351 (0)213 430 661
Fax: +351 (0)213 465 929
Email: snmv@mail.telepac.pt
www.snmv.pt

Romania
Asociația Generală a Medicilor Veterinari din România (AGMVR) / The General Association of Romanian Veterinarians
Spl. Independenței 105 sect. 5
050097 București
Tel: +40 (0)21 319 44 93
Fax: +40 (0)21 319 44 92
Email: agmvr@digicom.ro

College Of Romanian Veterinarians
Spl. Independenței 105 sect. 5
050097 București
Tel: +40 21 319 45 04
Fax: +40 21 319 45 04
Email: liviu.harbuz@cmvro.ro; office@cmvro.ro

Slovak Republic
Komora veterinárnych lekárov Slovenskej Republiky
Botanická 17 - 841 04 Bratislava
Tel: +421 (0)2 65443212
Fax: +421 (0)2 65443213
Email: kvlsr@vetchamber.sk
www.veterina.sk

Slovenia
Veterinarska Zbornica
Cesta 24. junija 25 - 1231 Ljubljana
Tel: +386 (0) 1 56 32 670
Fax: +386 (0) 1 56 32 669
Email: uprava@vzb.si
www.vzb.si

Serbia
Veterinary Chamber of Serbia/Veterinarska Komora Srbije
Bulevar Oslobođenja 18 - 11129 Beograd
Tel: +381 11 2684 597
Fax: +381 11 2685 619
Email: vetks@eunet.yu
www.vetks.org.yu

Spain
Consejo General de Colegios Veterinarios de España (CGCVE)
C/ Villanueva 11 - 28001 Madrid
Tel: +34 (0)9 1435 35 35
Fax: +34 (0)9 157 834 68
Email: consejo@colvet.es
www.colvet.es

Sweden
Sveriges Veterinärförbund (SVF)
Kungsholm Hamnplan 7
Box 12709 SE - 11294 Stockholm
Tel: +46 (0)8 545 558 20
Fax: +46 (0)8 545 558 39

Email: office@svf.se
www.svf.se

Switzerland
Gesellschaft Schweizer Tierärztinnen und Tierärzte / Société des Vétérinaires Suisses
Brunnmattstrasse 13 - Case postale 45
3174 Thörishaus
Tel: +41 (0)31 307 35 35
Fax: +41 (0)31 307 35 39
Email: info@gstsvs.ch
www.gstsvs.ch

Turkey
Türk Veteriner Hekimleri Birliği
Dr. Mediha Eldem Sokak No:73/8
06640 Kocatepe, Ankara
Tel: +90 (0) 312 435 54 15
Tel: +90 (0) 312 430 66 57
Fax: +90 (0) 312 435 18 53
Email: merkezkonseysi@tvhb.org.tr
www.tvhb.org.tr

United Kingdom
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
7 Mansfield Street - W1G 9NQ London
Tel: +44 (0)20 7636 6541
Fax: +44 (0)20 7908 6349
Email: bvahq@bva.co.uk
www.bva.co.uk

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
Belgravia House - 62-64 Horseferry Road
SW1P 2AF London
Tel: +44 (0)20 7222 2001
Fax: +44 (0)20 7222 2004
Email: admin@rcvs.org.uk
www.rcvs.org.uk

Observers :

Albania
Albanian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons
P.O. Box 50 - Tirana
Tel: +355 42 272 343
Fax: +355 42 272 343
Email: ilir_kusi@hotmail.com

Ukraine
Association of Veterinarians of Ukraine
Vasylykivska str., 16 - 03040 Kyiv
Tel: +38 (0)40 257 19 92
Fax: +38 (0)40 257 19 92
Email: asvmu@yahoo.com

■ Nr of active Vets
■ Population (millions)

