

Dear Delegates

## **FVE General Assembly, London 2020 – it's au revoir but not goodbye**

The FVE Board, together with the RCVS and BVA, had all been very much looking forward to welcoming you to London for the FVE General Assembly (GA) meeting in June, so it is with a heavy heart and much regret that we must inform you of our recent joint decision to now cancel the meeting for this summer.

The reason, as for so many people and events around the world, is of course the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unnecessary and indefensible risk that we would take in proceeding with the GA as planned.

This continues to be a rapidly changing global situation that makes it difficult to know what restrictions, if any, might be in place in the coming weeks and months. The international consensus, however, seems to focus on social distancing, including the cancellation of large meetings and events.

Therefore, in light of the exceptional circumstances in which all European countries now find themselves, and especially considering the UK Government's latest advice that the peak of the pandemic in the UK will hit in early June, we have taken the only rational course of action.

We are truly sorry to be cancelling our General Assembly meeting, in what promised to be another wonderful opportunity to bring together our European veterinary family, this time in London, along with an exciting programme of social events and a very warm welcome from our UK colleagues.

Nevertheless, we would like to leave you with a little good news. Rather than cancelling the event entirely, FVE has agreed with the RCVS and BVA that we will return to London for the spring General Assembly in 2021! We will confirm the exact dates in due course and would like to record our grateful thanks to Malta for graciously agreeing to move their GA plans back to a later date. .

All being well, we shall greatly look forward to seeing you all in Prague on 5 to 7 November for our autumn General Assembly meeting. In the meantime information about FVE and related veterinary matters will be circulated to you via e-mail.

For now all our very best wishes and the best of health to you, your colleagues and your friends and families in these most challenging of times.

From all of us at FVE, RCVS, and BVA

Niall Connell  
President RCVS

Rens van Dobbenburgh  
President FVE

Daniella Dos Santos  
President BVA