



Vision by Dr. Rafael Laguens

The driving idea that led to the creation of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) 157 years ago was finding ways to fight against epizootic diseases and to share and apply international procedures to prevent and control diseases.

At that time, the biggest concern was rinderpest, a disease that devastated many countries and that through global coordination we were able to declare eradicated in 2011.

Nowadays the world is facing another unprecedented pandemic, which highlights the importance of the veterinary profession for its crucial contribution to public health and the need for a coordinated

approach. The whole world is currently fighting the same disease.

The involvement of the European veterinary profession within WVA has been crucial from the start; its founder John Gamgee, Professor at the Veterinary College of Edinburgh, was born in Florence, educated in Italy, Germany, and Switzerland and graduated from the Royal Veterinary College of London.

Europe has hosted many WVA Congresses; many European veterinarians have served in different positions of the Organizational Structure of WVA and now the European region contributes with the largest number of member organizations to WVA.

Currently the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) hosts the secretariat for WVA, continuing the work previously done by the Danish Veterinary Association, who hosted the WVA Secretariat from 1994 to 2010.

The FVE experience, gathered over the years through the collaboration with veterinarians from all over the European region, with such diversity of culture, history and economies, technical and scientific background, could be a great contribution to WVA. The European veterinary profession needs to look beyond the limits of our European region.

I call up for FVE and each of the national veterinary associations to actively participate in the worldwide network of the profession. More than ever, the veterinary profession is a global matter. Disease prevention and control, food security and food safety, animal welfare and availability of medicinal products, have all become global issues that need a global approach.

Global veterinary collaboration is essential to achieve the goals and fulfil the commitments that our profession has concerning the health for humans, animals, and the environment under the One Health approach. I am committed so that WVA can bring together veterinarians from all over the world, to share the best skills, experiences, ideas and join forces for the promotion and development of the veterinary profession.

Rafael Laguens

