



# NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2011

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## EDITORIAL



Last month has been a very busy one for many veterinarians involved in international veterinary policy making. In addition to regular meetings and conferences, there were the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education, the EU Veterinary Week Conference on Crisis Management in the Food Chain, and the annual General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health, to mention a few.

A common feature of all these meetings and events is the strong ambition within the veterinary profession to strengthen and where possible to improve its activities and services for assuring the health and welfare of animals and people.

Day-1 competences, statutory bodies regulating the profession, lessons learned from disease outbreaks, communication, capacity building and leadership, food safety and food security, climate change

and many more items were discussed, conclusions were drawn and initiatives to go ahead were taken.

It is good to see how the profession is organised and works together, identifying new challenges and opportunities, preparing for the future. For a relatively small profession like ours, working together is a *conditio sine qua non*.

However, looking back at last month's events there is another opportunity we shouldn't miss: involving other professions and sectors in the discussion. The large majority of all participants in the events mentioned above were veterinarians. Certainly, there is nothing against having so many colleagues together, on the contrary. Nonetheless, the impact of the meetings and events could grow even more if other professionals would be included more.

The veterinary profession has achieved a lot since its start, 250 years ago. For example the recent declaration of the world free of Rinderpest, is something we can be rightly proud of, however no reason for being too proud to listen to others.

Jan Vaarten,

FVE executive director

# ANIMAL HEALTH

## CALLISTO APPROVED: FVE COORDINATOR

FVE has been granted the FP7 project that aims to identify knowledge and technology gaps in the management of the most important zoonoses transmitted by companion animals, and to propose actions that contribute to reducing the risk of infectious disease outbreaks in humans and food-producing animals related to companion animals. FVE will be the coordinator of "Callisto", with many partners, including the International association of human-animal interaction organisations (IAHAIO), the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) and the Universities of Copenhagen and of Jerusalem. The FP7 project of €1 million will take 3 years.

## EU VETERINARY WEEK 2011

### Crisis management and communication in the food chain

"Since it is impossible to say that there will be no food crises in the future, our response capability must be maintained. However, this does not only concern managing the crisis but also the way we communicate", said John Dalli, Commissioner in charge of Health and Consumer Policy, addressing the audience by video during this year's EU veterinary week, held on 19 and 20 May

in Brussels <sup>1</sup>. A series of crises over the past 15-20 years, from BSE and Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) to dioxin contamination, had led the EU to overhaul its entire Food Safety system. Some 300 representatives of EU bodies, governments, industry and veterinary organisations took part in the conference, which focused on the political, social and economic impact of crisis in the Food Chain and the role of veterinarians.

*"As 'interface' between animals, animal owners and society, veterinarians play a pivotal role in One Health", stressed Walter Winding, FVE president. According to the World Health Organisation, One health can be defined as 'the sum of all contributions to the complete physical, mental and social wellbeing of humans through and understanding and application of veterinary medical science'. "One Health is as old as our profession, which celebrates its 250th birthday this year. Bourgelat, founder of the first veterinary school, already understood the importance of comparative pathobiology, and was a promoter of the current One Health concept far before his time."*

Communications was "a special mission and responsibility for the veterinary profession", according to Walter Winding. "Vets can 'translate' legislation and messages to the public and animal owners". Private practitioners and official veterinarians play complementary roles in face of a crisis, he added.

The conference examined specific case studies, such as the EU's response to the Avian Influenza outbreaks in 2005 and 2006, the dioxin contamination of Irish pork in 2008 and the issue of German meat unfit for human consumption in 2006. The event also focused on the FMD situ-

ation in the UK, ten years after the major outbreaks in the country, vaccination as a disease control tool and communication during crises.

## VETS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE

### Winners of the photographic competition announced

Somenath Mukhopadhyay (Asia and the Pacific, his picture above and



below), Ariel Alejandro Corvalán Herrera (Americas), István Konyhás (Europe), Molly Feltner (Africa) and Genoveva Kriechbaum (Middle East) are the five winners of the Vets in Your Daily Life photo competition, launched by European Commission's DG for Health and Consumers and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Somenath Mukhopadhyay was announced as the overall winner in Paris during the OIE general assembly. The initiative was instigated to celebrate the



<sup>1</sup> <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/618&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

fact that 2011 is World Veterinary Year, and to promote and highlight the crucial role undertaken by veterinarians. Over 2,500 entries were received, several of which were displayed at the EU veterinary week.

## DRAFT LEGISLATION

### New Animal health law

The new Animal Health Law, (AHL) of which the proposal has been announced for March 2012, is part of a legislative package that includes Regulation 882, laying down the rules on the official controls of animals and food<sup>2</sup>, as well as a Regulation on plant health and on seeds and propagating material.

Much of the new AHL is expected to be interlinked with Regulation 882, which is now under review 'to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules'. For example, legislation on veterinary border controls<sup>3</sup> and the official controls on the residues of veterinary medicines<sup>4</sup> are to be integrated in the Regulation. Adjustments will be made so that the Regulation is fully applicable to animal health controls. So far, no official drafts of the proposal have been made available. An impact assessment of the AHL is expected for this summer. A further update will be given at the Advisory Group, of which FVE is a member, to be held on 17 June.

2 Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

3 Current Directives 91/496/EEC and 97/78/EC

4 Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC

## VETERINARY PRACTICE

### Companion animal vets issue a poster to help control infection

Wash and disinfect hands, use gloves, train staff, manage waste. These and other "key recommendations for hygiene and infection control in veterinary practice" are highlighted in a poster produced by the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) with support from the FVE. The poster highlights recommendations for the "effective implementation of hygienic measures essential to prevent and contain the transmission of nosocomial infections to animals and humans both within veterinary settings and in the community".

The poster can be downloaded from the FVE website<sup>5</sup>

## BLUE TONGUE CONTROL

### Parliament approves new rules on bluetongue vaccination

An update of EU rules on vaccination against bluetongue disease was approved by the European Parliament. The proposed amendments of the Directive should make the rules on vaccination more flexible and take into account the availability of inactivated vaccines, which can be successfully used outside restricted areas. However, the use of live attenuated vaccines should not be excluded, as

5 [http://www.fve.org/news/publications/pdf/fecava\\_hygiene%20poster\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fve.org/news/publications/pdf/fecava_hygiene%20poster_2011.pdf)

their use might still be necessary under certain circumstances. The legislation falls under the codecision procedure and the proposal is also discussed by the Council.

## RINDERPEST 2011

### Veterinarians celebrate rinderpest eradication

2011 not only marks the 250th anniversary of the veterinary profession – it also marks the eradication of rinderpest, a 'first' in the history of veterinary medicine, equalled only by the eradication of smallpox in human medicine. The two events are linked: the devastation caused by rinderpest in the 18th century was one of the reasons that convinced Louis XV to allow Claude Bourgelat setting up the first veterinary school in Lyon. The short "incursion" of rinderpest in Europe in the early 1920s lead to the establishment of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), or World Or-



ganisation for Animal Health, as it is now known. For more information, read the April Editorial of the OIE website, in which OIE general director Bernard Vallat relates the "Odyssey of Rinderpest Eradication"<sup>6</sup>

6 <http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/editorials/detail/article/the-odyssey-of-rinderpest-eradication/>

## PET ID

### Microchip all travelling pets: urges FVE

From 4 July 2011, all dogs, cats and ferrets internationally travelling to or within the EU will need to be microchipped, according to Regulation 998/2003. This date marks the end of an eight-year transitional period, during which both a tattoo and microchip were recognised as accepted means of identification.

Due to some questions about whether pets tattooed before 3 July 2011 will need to be re-identified with a microchip, DG Sanco issued an explanatory note in December 2010. This note stated that, if an animal bears a clearly readable tattoo – and is accompanied by proof that tattooing was done before 3 July 2011 – it must be considered as being identified.

FVE strongly urges all pet owners to make sure their pets are microchipped prior to travelling to avoid unnecessary delay at borders. Also, if a pet is lost in another Member state, it will be much easier to reunite it with its owner if identified with a transponder. All pets with ISO-standard chips can be traced back to their country of origin, and so to their national database. FVE also stresses that identification without registration in a database is of little value.

Pets travelling to the UK, Ireland and Malta have been required to be identified by microchip since the entry into force of the Regulation – and will continue to do so.

### Cat identification to become compulsory in France

Identification has become compulsory for cats in France. All cats born after 1st January 2012 should be identified before the age of seven months. Identification was already compulsory for cats that changed owners, although this was rarely applied. The identification of dogs is already compulsory for dogs born since 1999.



Both tattoos and microchips are acceptable means of identification, al-

though pets travelling to the EU Member States should carry a microchip from 4 July 2011 onwards.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### TRANSPORT REGULATION (1)

#### Animal transport: major enforcement differences between Member states



Enforcement of EU animal transport legislation was the topic of a European Parliament intergroup meeting on 4 May.

During her presentation, Nancy De Briyne, FVE's deputy director, recalled that animal transport was not only a welfare issue, but also had a strong impact on animal and public health. "*Don't drive diseases around*" she warned. She also called for a more rigorous and uniform implementation of the Regulation. Enforcement should be "*practical, proportional and risk-based*" and focus on prevention and advice. Penalties should be dissuasive and harmonised, while monitoring procedures should be clear (e.g. navigation system, temperature monitoring). She also pointed out that the FVE had issued a position paper on the role of vets in the transport of animals<sup>7</sup>. Finally, she announced the creation of the Equine transport enforcement award, organised jointly between

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.fve.org/news/position\\_papers/animal\\_welfare/fve\\_10\\_044\\_vets\\_and\\_the\\_transport\\_of\\_animals\\_final.pdf](http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_welfare/fve_10_044_vets_and_the_transport_of_animals_final.pdf)

the FVE and the British Equine Veterinary Association.

Michel Courat (Eurogroup for animal welfare) concluded that Member states paid very little attention to official reports required by Article 27 of the Transport Regulation<sup>8</sup>, and that these reports were not considered as tools for improvement. Fines and sanctions for the same violation differ greatly per Member state, and it was exceedingly difficult to impose fines on transport companies from other Member states, he said, referring to the detailed 40-page report 'Weaknesses in the animal transport monetary sanctions', produced by Eyes on Animals and the World Society for the Protection of Animals<sup>9</sup>.

The transport operator was not always to blame, stressed Marc Billiet (International Road Transport Union). Even though it is a Regulation, the legislation allows a lot of flexibility for the Member States, he said, which leads to confusion and conflicting situations. For example, Dutch authorities decided to enforce a minimum space of 25 cm above the withers for slaughter cattle over one year of age. This also applies to all foreign transporters entering the Netherlands. There is also still lack of clarity relating to the use of navigation systems, he added. Finally, rules relating to live animal transport were often in conflict with other transport rules, such as working times and driving/resting rules for the driver. The full programme of the meeting and presentations can be found online<sup>10</sup>

8 Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

9 [http://www.eyesonanimals.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/reports/WEAKNESS\\_IN\\_MONETARY\\_SANCTIONS\\_OF\\_ANIMAL\\_TRANSPORT.pdf](http://www.eyesonanimals.com/fileadmin/user_upload/reports/WEAKNESS_IN_MONETARY_SANCTIONS_OF_ANIMAL_TRANSPORT.pdf)

10 <http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu/meetings/infopack271en/summary.pdf>

## TRANSPORT REGULATION (2)

### Sweden calls on Commission to present report on welfare impact

In a note to the Council, the Swedish delegation stresses the need to update transport Regulation 1/2005, "in particular as regards restrictions on journey times", while "resting periods and space allowances should also be reviewed". Sweden also announces it is "looking forward to the report which the Commission has promised to draw up by September of this year". According to article 37, the Commission should present a report on the impact of the Regulation, including that on the welfare of the animals being transported.

## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

### Declaration calls for EU-wide dog identification to combat puppy trade

Mandatory identification of companion animals is "crucial for successful animal health and welfare management", while helping to promote responsible ownership and preserve public health. This is one of the statements of the Declaration on Responsible Ownership, issued at the First conference on animal welfare in the Baltic region, held on 5 and 6 May in Vilnius (Lithuania). Over 200 people from 20 countries attended the event, organised jointly by Vier Pfoeten/Four Paws, the Istituto G. Caporale (Teramo), the European Commission, the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas), the Lithuanian Ministry



of Agriculture, the Movement Humans for Animals and FVE.

"Mandatory identification, combined with an effective and reliable system for registration of dogs is pivotal for successful Animal Health and Welfare Management, not only to reunite dogs with their owners but also to help to prevent illegal puppy trade and to promote responsible ownership", stressed Walter Winding, FVE president.

The Declaration – a "call for action for responsible companion animal ownership to European and national institutions" – also supports the creation of a "compatible EU-wide system" for the identification and registration of dogs and the mandatory registration of commercial dog and cat breeders and retailers, in order to avoid illegal breeding and trading and market distortion. The Declaration furthermore encourages all Member States to ban the keeping of wild animals, including exotic animals, as pets by private individuals.

Finally, it calls upon the European Commission to introduce welfare of companion animals in the upcoming animal welfare strategy.

It can be downloaded from the Carodog website<sup>11</sup>, a knowledge management tool promoting responsible dog ownership. The European Commission and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) support

11 <http://www.carodog.eu/>

the website with their expertise.

## SPECIALIZATION

### European College for Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law approved

On 19 April 2011, the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation approved the enlargement of the former European College of Veterinary Behavioural Medicine – Companion Animals with the European College for Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law (AWSEL) as sub-speciality. The overarching College has been renamed European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine (ECAWBM). In the first five years, the college will be allowed to accept de facto diplomats; diplomats who are not required to undertake a residency programme or submit to examination in order to become a diplomate. To be eligible for application, certain criteria must be met, such as at least seven years of professional experience in the specialty and spending at least 60% of a fulltime working week in animal welfare science, ethics and/or law. More information on de facto recognition and application form will be published in the near future on [www.aswel.eu](http://www.aswel.eu)

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### FEEES FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS

#### Revising financing rules

Fees paid by food business operators to finance official controls do not cover the inspection costs. This was one of the conclusions of the 2009 external evaluation of the financing rules for official controls, which are defined by Regulation 882<sup>12</sup>. The consultancy companies in charge of the evaluation also identified a lack of fee uniformity, lack of transparency in the calculation of costs, lack of clarity and lack of flexibility. Given



the shortcomings identified, an impact assessment was launched by DG Sanco earlier this year and GHK was appointed for that. The FVE Hygiene working group, consulted during this assessment, stress the need for adequate resources. They also noted that *“controls will increasingly become risk-based, which will result in a reduction in the frequency of inspections and audits. As long as there is a system of financing official controls on a full-cost recovery basis,*

*we will have enough resources for the control.”*

FVE notes that the level of cost recovery achieved on official controls depends largely on the fundamental philosophy of responsibility in the respective Member state. *“The provision of safe and wholesome food is considered a fundamental responsibility of the government in some Member states, while elsewhere it is considered the responsibility of the health service – or of the producer”.*

The FVE would support a *“bonus-malus”* principle, which might help cover full cost and ensure resources. *“The entire Regulation is built on a risk based approach”*, FVE recalls, and *“official controls can be tailored to meet the relative risk of each operation”*. In other words, a bonus-malus system. *“A history of favourable inspection results may lead to a decrease in inspection frequency but a sanction requires a follow-up inspection that must be paid by food business operators. Using a time-based fee, while incorporating the costs of necessary sampling, could promote such system”*. Feedback and input from stakeholders and Member States are currently being analysed by the Commission.

## FOOD HYGIENE

### FVE consulted on the harmonisation of risk- based meat inspection

Harmonized, risk-based meat inspection has been the topics of numerous meetings in the EU over the past decade. In March 2011, the European Commission issued a questionnaire to stakeholders in preparation of drafting a legislative proposal for a harmonized meat inspection. As one of the stake-

<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

holders, FVE was invited to submit its feedback by 31 May. The Commission will also consider the outcome of the EFSA assessment for the modernization of meat inspection in the pig sector, expected by September. FVE welcomes the principle of risk-based inspection and agrees that meat inspection may differ between Member States, based on EU harmonised epidemiological criteria.

If additional hazards are identified by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to be included in meat inspection, such as food-borne infections due to e.g. *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter*, food business operators should test for these micro-organisms and systematically communicate the results to the competent authorities, according to FVE. *“Additional sampling should be part of the Food Safety Management system and would not be mandatory.”* FVE supports meat inspection based on a bonus/malus system. This should reflect the outcome of audits as regards the frequency of official controls, the responsibilities of slaughterhouse staff, the presence of competent authorities and/or official veterinarians. FVE stressed that the verification of food chain information, ante mortem inspection and auditing tasks should all be a matter for Official Vets. Finally, the FVE suggests using the term *‘meat safety controls’*, which would include a wider scope of activities than meat inspection.

The rules for meat inspection are laid down by the Hygiene package, and in particular Reg. 852 (General Hygiene Rules) and Reg. 853 (Specific Hygiene Rules for products of animal origin).

Both FVE responses can be consulted on the FVE restricted web site.

## MEDICINES

### ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (1)

#### EP resolution

FVE warmly welcomed the EP initiative for a Resolution on Antimicrobial resistance but was not convinced on the relevance of the



amendment 50 which asked Member States *“to restrict veterinarians from, in non acute cases, selling veterinary medicines directly to farmers and animal owners”*<sup>13</sup>

On 12 April, with 13 votes for and 25 against, the Agri Committee of the European Parliament rejected amendment 50; it was finally adopted on 12 May.

Indeed, Walter Winding, FVE president, underlined that *“the prohibition of selling veterinary medicines would not lead to less antibiotic use”*. In fact, *“experience has shown that in certain Member states where veterinarians are not allowed to sell veterinary medicines, this did not lead to less use or sales of antimicrobials nor to a lower frequency of antimicrobial*

*resistance”*. Furthermore, the Berenschot report, which examined the effects of dissociating veterinary prescription and dispensing<sup>14</sup>, concluded that restricting the sales of antimicrobials by veterinarians would not be effective, and even recommended strengthening the position of the veterinary practitioner as ‘gatekeeper’ for antimicrobial use in animals.

He added that *“a greater reliance on education, training and improved monitoring, as proposed in the Resolution, stands a far better chance of achieving the desired result than changing the medicines distribution channels to pharmacists, wholesalers or the internet trade.”*

## 18 NOVEMBER 2011

#### FVE to organise seminar on antimicrobial resistance

On 18 November, during the meeting of its general assembly in Brussels, the FVE will organise a special seminar on the occasion of antimicrobial awareness day, in collaboration with the Polish presidency and the European Commission. The event will highlight the challenges and opportunities of using antimicrobials in the medical and veterinary field – a real ‘One Health’ issue. The seminar will start in the afternoon and will end in the evening with a networking cocktail. The event will be open to European institution staff and other interested persons.

For more details, please contact the FVE office.

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/agri/am/862/862005/862005en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/agri/am/862/862005/862005en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.cbg-meb.nl/CBG/en/veterinary-medicines/actueel/20100309-Berenschot-report-on-antibiotics-use/default.htm>

## ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (2)

### WHO Europe tackles antibiotic resistance link with food

Resistance in the foodborne zoonotic bacteria *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* is clearly linked to antibiotic use in food animals, and foodborne diseases caused by such resistant bacteria are well documented in people, according to "Tackling antibiotic resistance from a food safety perspective in Europe", the 88-page brochure recently published by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe<sup>15</sup>.

The brochure "explores the options for prevention and containment of antibiotic resistance in the food chain through national coordination and international cooperation, including the regulation and reduction of antibiotic use in food animals, training and capacity building, surveillance of resistance trends and antibiotic usage, promotion of knowledge and research, and advocacy and communication to raise awareness of the issues." The publication is primarily intended for policy-makers and authorities working in the public health, agriculture, food production and veterinary sectors, and "offers them ways to take a holistic, intersectoral, multifaceted approach to this growing problem".



15 [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/136454/e94889.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/136454/e94889.pdf)

Antimicrobial resistance was also the theme of this year's World Health Day, held on 7 April<sup>16</sup>.

## MEDICATED FEED

### Directive to be reviewed, stakeholder consultation ended

The Directive governing the conditions for mixing veterinary medicine into feed, its marketing and use across the EU<sup>17</sup>, will be revised. The Directive's transposition and implementation has led to big differences throughout the EU manufacturers and farmers.

Some provisions are not in line with developments in feed and veterinary medicinal products legislation. DG Sanco has launched a stakeholder consultation: "Smart Regulation of Medicated Feed - how to safeguard public and animal health while increasing the competitiveness of the EU's livestock sector". The consultation ended on the 30th of May<sup>18</sup>.

16 <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/en/>

17 Council Directive 90/167/EEC of 26 March 1990 laying down the conditions governing the preparation, placing on the market and use of medicated feedingstuffs in the Community

18 [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/labelling/medicated\\_feed\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/labelling/medicated_feed_en.htm)  
FVE Response [http://www.fve.org/members/fve/consultations/docs/023\\_2011\\_%20smart%20reg%20medicated%20feed\\_rev.pdf](http://www.fve.org/members/fve/consultations/docs/023_2011_%20smart%20reg%20medicated%20feed_rev.pdf)

## EDUCATION

### VETERINARY TRAINING

#### A Mediterranean Union for Veterinary Education

Veterinary undergraduate and postgraduate education in Europe were discussed at the 31 March meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training (EC-CVT), composed of representatives from the EAEVE<sup>19</sup>, the EBVS<sup>20</sup> and the FVE. Guest speaker professor André-Laurent Parodi (France) reported on the October 2010 TAIEX meeting "towards a Mediterranean Union for Veterinary Education", at which 19 countries participate<sup>21</sup>. Aim of that meeting was to inform Mediterranean countries about the conditions of a mutual recognition of veterinary diplomas in the EU through standardization and harmonization of the veterinary curricula in the EU member States, and to develop a regional roadmap for standardization and harmonization of the veterinary curricula in Mediterranean countries, in particular of non-EU members. These countries were encouraged to set up self-evaluation systems and to request external evaluations with the assistance of European and/or international organisations.

Other topics discussed at the ECCVT meeting included a draft vision and action plan, the legal recognition of veterinary specialist degrees at EU level and the misleading use of a

19 European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education

20 European Board for Veterinary Specialisation

21 [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/dyn/taieux-events/library/detail\\_en.jsp?EventID=41540](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/dyn/taieux-events/library/detail_en.jsp?EventID=41540)



veterinary “Masters” degree provided by the University of Luxemburg, a university without a veterinary faculty.

## LYON 13-14 MAY

### 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education

Professor Stéphane Martinot, dean of the veterinary school of Lyon (which celebrates its 250th anniversary), welcomed over 300 officials and participants from 60 countries all over the world to the second global conference on veterinary education, held in Lyon on 13 and 14 May<sup>22</sup>. This second meeting, a follow-up from the conference held in 2009 in Paris, recognised the key contribution made by the veterinary profession to society and the importance of assuring high quality veterinary education.



During the conference, speakers explained the situation in their country and discussed the needs for educating future veterinarians. Sessions were held on “Day-1 competencies” and the work of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in that field, as well as the role of veterinary statutory bodies. A round table was held on the Recommendations for a minimum veterinary curriculum at global level, in which FVE president Walter Winding participated. Furthermore, two “brain-

<sup>22</sup> For more information and conference presentations, please visit <http://www.wcve2011.org/>

storming” sessions focused on the development and improvement of curricula.

Ron DeHaven, chief executive officer of the American Veterinary Medical Association, gave an overview of the work done by the OIE ad hoc group on Veterinary Education of which he is chairman. The group preferred to focus on the outcome of veterinary education, he said, rather than to prescribe how these should be achieved. Different categories of competencies were identified: General, Specific and Advanced Competences<sup>23</sup>. The paper from the ad hoc group was the basis for discussion during the General Session of the OIE the following week. Adoption is foreseen for the 2012 General Session.

Recognising the particular challenges faced by developing countries, participants supported active cooperation between veterinary education institutes and also between statutory bodies, by following the OIE institutional twinning program; they also called for financial support from international donors for strengthening veterinary education and governance globally.

Tjeerd Jorna, president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), and former president of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, announced that the 3rd global conference on Veterinary education would be organised by the WVA in 2013.

At the occasion of the Conference in Lyon, a stamp was issued commemorating the 250th birthday of the first veterinary school

<sup>23</sup> Last report of the Veterinary Education ad hoc Group with the draft minimum competencies as an annex of the last Code Commission’s meeting (annex 37) [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International\\_Standard\\_Setting/docs/pdf/A\\_TAHSF\\_Feb\\_2011\\_Part\\_B.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TAHSF_Feb_2011_Part_B.pdf)

## COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

### UK: Veterinary nurses now have their own disciplinary system

Disciplinary procedures came into effect for all registered veterinary nurses (RVNs) in the UK in April. As



is the case with veterinary surgeons in the UK, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) will only investigate complaints that question an RVN’s fitness to practice, for example professional misconduct or criminal convictions. Veterinary nurses’ roles differ from those of veterinary surgeons, and the expectations about professional behaviour in each profession are set out in their respective Guides to professional conduct. RVNs are furthermore required to spend an average minimum of 15 hours of continuing professional development per year. A register for qualified veterinary nurses has been held by the RCVS since 2007. Membership is compulsory for all nurses qualified since 2003 and voluntary for those that qualified before.

In Ireland, veterinary nurses have been a regulated profession since 1 January 2008 and are subject to the same procedures as veterinary practitioners. They have to respect the code of conduct as well as to achieve 12 continuing veterinary education credits per annum.

## THREE QUESTIONS FOR...

Ida Olsen



## IDA OLSEN

Ida Olsen is the newest member of the FVE Hygiene Working Group. She is very pleased to join the forum and will do her best to contribute in a constructive manner.

### **Please tell us more about your background**

I am from Norway, but I obtained my veterinary degree in Edinburgh. After graduation, I worked as a veterinary practitioner in Wales and in Norway for a few years. By chance, I ended up working for the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, where I worked both locally and centrally at the Head Office. Locally, I worked with meat control, animal health and animal welfare. Centrally, I worked mainly with EU legislation in the area of animal health. I frequently attended EU Commission working groups in Brussels, and it was an interesting and useful to experience how legislation is made.

I currently hold the position of head veterinarian at the Norwegian Independent Meat and Poultry Association, an organization that represents the privately owned meat, egg and poultry industry in Norway. This means being involved in food safety and public health issues, as well as animal health and welfare. It also means that I get to make full use of my veterinary background every day.

### **What is your opinion on the modernization of meat inspection?**

This has been an ongoing issue, but something seems to be really happening now, both in Norway and at a European level. Modernization is

crucial in order to focus on the real issues of food safety. The real threats are rarely visible to the naked eye, and every stone should be turned to develop a better, more efficient and more cost-effective meat control. This might include involving the staff at the slaughterhouse to a larger extent or perhaps leaving tasks out altogether. As we now have the technology available, we should make full use of the information available about the animals at herd level. It will be very interesting to read the EFSA report on meat control in pigs that is expected later this year, and I hope it will lead to a more science-based inspection.

### **How can veterinarians bring real added value to the whole food chain?**

Even as the modernization of meat inspection continues to progress, the task of the veterinarian should not be limited to the ante-mortem inspection of the animals at the slaughterhouse. Veterinarians have a unique background and are valuable in many other ways. They are able to take the whole food chain into consideration, having knowledge about animal feed, animal health, animal welfare and food safety. This is particularly important as the food chain is getting increasingly complex. Veterinarians are in an excellent position to assess the real risks involved in food production, and this is particularly important the moment something goes wrong!

# FVE & PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

10-11 JUNE 2011

FVE general assembly in  
Palermo



The FVE General Assembly will meet on 10 and 11 June in Palermo, Italy. Highlights of the meeting include the elections of the FVE board for 2011-2013.

Guest speakers are Herbert Schneider (role and responsibilities of veterinary statutory bodies), Giuliana Bondi (treatment of honeybees), Roberto Bardini (anaesthesia and pain control during pig castration) and Roberta Benini (Puppy trade).

The FVE sections (practitioners; hygienists; state veterinary officers; and veterinarians in industry, research and education) will hold their general assemblies on 9 June.

For further information, please contact the FVE Office.

# MISCELLA- NEOUS

## PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE & SAFE FOOD

### Bernard Vallat wins SSAFE leadership award

Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) received the first Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) Leadership Award, on 16 March. The award is given to individuals for their outstanding contributions to promote sustainable and safe food globally.

*"I'm honoured to receive this Award because it highlights the importance of the efforts of the OIE in preventing the spread of infectious diseases of animal origin, while limiting the devastating consequences they can have worldwide. The SSAFE decision is recognition of our efforts and underlines that sanitary conditions affecting the animal kingdom can have very serious global consequences for the rural economy and for global food safety and security",* Bernard Vallat said at the Award ceremony that took place in Paris.

SSAFE<sup>24</sup> is a global public private partnership of the main companies of the private sector from the global and regional food and feed systems (production, processing and distribution), NGOs, universities, intergovernmental and national agencies worldwide.

# OBITUARY

### Isabel Minguez-Tudela (1956-2011)

On April 16th, Isabel Mínguez-Tudela passed away in Brussels after a long struggle against cancer. Isabel died as she lived, working and fighting until the last moment for European research in animal health.



For over 15 years, she acted as a major bridge within the scientific community linking different European research teams and establishing connections with scientists from America, Asia and Africa. She helped to improve the level of European veterinary science by creating a strong European network of veterinary scientists in a very competitive environment. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the "One Health" vision and of the role of the veterinary profession in fighting neglected diseases and poverty.

Isabel arrived in Brussels in 1992, as a national expert in the DG Fisheries of the European Commission, acting as a counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU. She later became senior scientific officer in DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

On behalf of the veterinary community, the FVE offers its condolences to Isabel's family and friends.

24 <http://www.ssafe-food.org/15/>

## 5-6 SEPTEMBER JERUSALEM

### International scientific meeting on laboratory animal medicine

Animal Models, Housing and Techniques is the theme of the joint scientific meeting of the ILAF<sup>25</sup>, ESLAV<sup>26</sup> and ECLAM<sup>27</sup>, that will be held on 5 and



6 September in Jerusalem (Israel). It will be the first time for ESLAV to hold a meeting outside Europe. The meeting will cover a variety of research topics that relate to animal models of different functions and dysfunctions, housing and techniques. The list of topics includes environmental factors, welfare, intra specie communication, immunology, genetics, cardiovascular and metabolism.

For more information, please visit <http://www.makom.info/jerusalem2011/>

25 Israeli Lab Animal Forum <http://www.ilaf.org.il/shop/front/category.asp?shopid=460&>

26 European Society of Laboratory Animal Veterinarians <http://www.eslav.org/>

27 European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine <http://www.eclam.org/>

## VETS IN YOUR DAILY LIFE: PARTICIPANTS' PICTURES

Somenath Mukhopadhyay was the winner while Ariel Alejandro Corvalán Herrera (Americas), István Konyhás (Europe), Molly Feltner (Africa) and Genoveva Kriechbaum (Middle East) were the four finalists of the Vets in Your Daily Life photo competition. Their pictures can be viewed on Facebook under <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vets-in-Your-Daily-Life-Photo-Competition/159595427424031>

### FVE

Federation of Veterinarians  
of Europe - AISBL  
Rue Defacqz 1  
BE – 1000 Brussels  
Tel +32 2 533 70 20  
Fax +32 2 537 28 28  
[info@fve.org](mailto:info@fve.org)  
<http://www.fve.org>

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 46 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries and 4 Sections, regulated by the law on international societies in Belgium.

**Executive Director** Jan Vaarten

**Deputy Executive Director**

Nancy De Briyne

**Veterinary Policy Officers**

Francesco Proscia

Despoina Iatridou

**Office Manager** Ulrike Tewes

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**Free lance editor** Karin de Lange

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