EDITORIAL

Fighting antimicrobial resistance together

Fighting antimicrobial resistance is the top issue in EU consumer policy for the remaining legislative period until 2014. The EU Commission is carrying out an impact assessment to provide the basis for a revised version of the Directive on Veterinary Medicinal Products. The actors in both the fields of veterinary medicine and human medicine have to take responsibility. The first priority for veterinarians is to ensure the unity of diagnosis, prescription and dispensing of veterinary medicine and to keep their veterinary dispensing rights. Only veterinary dispensing rights can guarantee a maximum in animal health and a responsible use of pharmaceuticals.

Our profession needs to cooperate more closely with farmers’ organisations to improve animal health and animal husbandry. Antimicrobial use will not be reduced by statutory regulations and a de-coupling of prescription and sale, but depends on the health of livestock. We must focus on this if we want to achieve a reduction of antimicrobial use in the long run.

It is essential that we as FVE speak with one voice, even if some of our members have different systems and may be critical regarding the dispensing of antibiotics by veterinarians. As FVE, we should speak for the majority of veterinarians to decision makers and to the general public with clear positions if we want to be noticed.

Hans-Joachim-Götz, FVE Vice President

For FVE this means that the profession needs to intensify the contacts with its colleagues in human medicine to provide accurate information. At the moment, one of the main political goal is to stop the blame game, to work together on a science and evidence based solution.
Callisto: now online

The Companion animals’ multisectorial interprofessional and interdisciplinary strategic think tank on zoonoses (Callisto) is now online: www.callistoproject.eu. The Callisto project, coordinated by FVE, aims to provide an overview of the current situation regarding the role of companion animals as a source of infectious diseases for people and livestock.

The Callisto website is intended to provide a gateway to scientific research developed within the project, to increase public awareness as well as to communicate the findings and disseminate the strategies that are developed more widely.

The website forms part of an international research project financed by the European Commission and implemented by a consortium of research institutes, universities and veterinary associations.

Over the next three years, through expert groups and a series of conferences, it plans to identify gaps in knowledge and technology concerning the most important zoonoses associated with keeping companion animals, and to propose targeted actions to prevent and reduce the health risks for both humans and farm animals.

Everyone is invited to participate and to create an own account, as the website is designed to be interactive.

NEW FVE WORKING GROUP

Veterinary role in honey bee health

The new FVE bees working group met for the first time on 3 May. Its priorities are to make a European inventory of the veterinary involvement in honeybee health, to examine the availability of veterinary medicines for bees and to map and harmonise undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary education in honeybee health.

Preliminary findings will be presented at the FVE general assembly in November 2012. Members of the bees working group include Nicolas Vidal-Naquet (France – chair, left side of the picture), Raquel Martin Hernandez (Spain), Barbara Bernhart (Austria), Heike Aupperle (Germany), Giuliana Bondi (Italy, at the meeting with her colleague M.E. Reitano), Mariano Higes Pascual (Spain, not in the picture) and Matthew Sharman (UK, also not in the picture).

The working group underlined the need for FVE to promote the training and the position of veterinarians as veterinary honeybee practitioners with an expertise in prescribing veterinary medicines and the surveillance of notifiable bee diseases and to lobby for the improved availability of bee medicines.

JOINT SEMINAR ON EXOTIC ANIMALS

In view of the upcoming EU presidency of Cyprus (second half of 2012), FVE met with Cypriot veterinary representatives in April. As a result of the meeting, it was decided to organise a joint seminar on 3 and 4 October 2012 on the import and keeping of exotic animals into the EU. The seminar will cover the current situation and gaps in EU legislation, the animal and public health risks associated with the import of exotic animals and the implementation of EU and national legislation in this matter. For further information, please contact the FVE secretariat.

OIE GENERAL SESSION

On the agenda: One Health, education, welfare & quality of veterinary services

At the 80th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), its 178 Member countries elected Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany, in the picture) as President for a three-year term. Dr Schwabenbauer (in the picture) the first woman elected in this position, succeeds Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), elected in 2009.
Over 600 participants, representing OIE Member Countries, as well as many international, intergovernmental (FAO, WHO, World Bank, WTO, etc.), regional and national organisations took part in the event.

One Health was debated at length during the General session, including national and international experiences. The topic emphasized the importance of addressing new and emerging diseases at the animal source as a critical element for food security, health protection and economic prosperity.

With regard to official status on BSE, Croatia and Nicaragua were recognised as having a “controlled BSE risk” status, and Austria, Belgium, Brazil and Colombia as having a “negligible risk” status.

Delegates furthermore accredited one new Collaborating Centre and eleven new Reference Centres Laboratories, bringing the number of official centres of scientific excellence within the OIE worldwide network to 276.

The OIE received Member Countries’ support for its work addressing needs in veterinary education. The OIE, in collaboration with an expert group comprising deans of veterinary schools has developed a list of minimum competencies for all veterinary graduates worldwide.

The OIE is also encouraging countries to take steps to strengthen veterinary legislation based on OIE guidelines, and to establish or improve within this framework, their national Veterinary Statutory Body.

The Assembly adopted new guiding principles on animal welfare in relation to livestock production systems, and a new Terrestrial Code chapter on welfare of beef cattle. It also adopted new standards on terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases and on the quality of Veterinary Services.

The OIE Director General Bernard Vallat also announced the imminent launch of OIE’s new modernised version of the World Animal Health Information System, WAHIS for animal disease reporting.

The Turkish Veterinary Medical association was the recipient of this year’s World Veterinary Day Award 2012 with the theme antimicrobial resistance. World Veterinary Day is organised jointly by the OIE and the World Veterinary Association.

**Movement of pets**

**New proposal to require microchipping but not registration**

The European Commission published a proposal¹ to replace the current controls on the non-commercial movement of pets. The proposal, which would replace the current Regulation 998/2003², would see the introduction of delegated and implementing acts, and include a specification concerning the conclusion of the previously mandated eight-year transitional period with regards to identification. Furthermore, the proposal includes a new definition of non-commercial movement, the removal of the five animals limit for non-commercial breeds and a derogation for some Member States concerning the movement of pets not vaccinated against rabies.

FVE regrets that the proposal does not include any reference to the registration of identified animals, and recalls that ‘identification without registration is of little value’.

FVE is also worried that the new definition of ‘non-commercial movement’ will lead to practical problems and legal uncertainty, as it is often difficult to distinguish between commercial and non-commercial movement. It is vital that Member States use the same definition.

FVE, together with the Member States, calls upon the European Commission to provide a clear overview of all rules (and derogations) of the movement of pets within the EU, as these are quite complex. This information should be easy to understand for citizens wishing to travel with their animal, be easily accessible and exist in all official languages.

² http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/nocomm_third_en.htm
FVE to draft model animal welfare curriculum

An ad hoc working group has been established by FVE to develop a draft model curriculum for animal welfare teaching in veterinary education. The group, which held its inaugural meeting on 28 February, consists of the following persons: David Morton (UK – chair), Frauke Oh, (Netherlands), Borut Zemljic (Slovenia), Dirk Neuhaus (Germany), Manuel Sant’Ana (Portugal), Anna-Caroline Wöhr (Germany), Denis Simonin (France, European Commission), Linda Keeling (Sweden), Vlatko Ilieski (FYROM) and Nancy De Briyne (FVE Office).

The group’s first task is to map animal welfare science, law and ethics teaching in undergraduate education. The second task (delivery: end 2013): drafting a model animal welfare curriculum for undergraduate veterinary education. The draft should take the current teaching in European veterinary faculties into account, propose core teaching subjects and possible ways of implementing it into the curriculum.

Practical animal welfare on farm

After Budapest and Barcelona, Riga (Latvia) was the third host to the workshop ‘Improving animal welfare, a practical approach’ that took place on 19-20 April. It was organised jointly by FVE, Latvian ministry of agriculture, the BIOR Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment, the Latvian University of Agriculture, the Latvian Veterinary Association and the European Commission (DG Sanco). It was mainly targeted at veterinary farm animal practitioners and official veterinarians from the Balkan and Nordic countries.

Day one included an overview with presentations on ‘Why should we care more about animal welfare’, while four break-out sessions were organised, on poultry, cattle, pigs and wild animals kept in captivity. Presentations, photographs and videos of this conference and the previous ones, are now available online³.

The success of these meetings has spurred the European Commission into plans of considering the funding of a next series of workshops, with the focus on ‘lasting change’.

Riga Animal Welfare Workshops

Welfare of slaughter animals

EP adopts 8-hours transport limit

On 15 March, European Parliament adopted a written declaration that calls for a maximum 8-hours limit for the transport of slaughter animals⁵.

The document refers to the over one million signatures registered on the www.8hours.eu website. This massive number of European citizens called for an end to long-distance journeys for animals sent for slaughter in the European Union.

The long journeys of animals destined for slaughter in the EU often leads to compromised animal welfare. The transport of animals has always been a controversial issue. In 2000, 3.5 million cattle, 12 million pigs and 4.1 million sheep and goats were traded between Member States in the EU, and most were transported by road. Many animals carried in international transport are intended for slaughter in their country of destination but some die during the journey due to stress or lack of space and ventilation. The FVE has published several position papers on this topic, calling for short travel times and improved reinforcement of current welfare legislation.

In January, the FVE jointly with other stakeholders, published Guidelines to assess the fitness for the transport of cattle⁶. So far these guidelines have been translated into English, German, Spanish, French, and Por-

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³ http://www.onetec.be/animalwelfare/ria.html

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⁴ Eurogroup for animals, Animals’ Angels, the European Livestock Trading Union, the International Road Transport Union, the European Livestock Transporters

⁵ Written Declaration 49/2011 on the establishment of a maximum 8-hour journey limit for animals transported in the European Union for the purpose of being slaughtered.

tuguese. Upon request, the Commission will translate the guidelines in 13 additional languages (Hungarian, Latvian, Finnish, Estonian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Greek, Romanian, Slovenian, Slovakian, Polish and Dutch). The Italian version should be available later this week, meaning that nearly all Member States will be able to use the document in their own language.

In an earlier consultation report, MEPs stress that animals should be moved around as little as possible and should in particular be slaughttered close to their point of origin, rather than being taken to a different country just to find a cheaper slaughterhouse. MEPs now call on the Commission and the Council to review the Transport Regulation7 to establish a maximum 8-hour limit for the journeys of animals transported for the purpose of being slaughtered.

**Welfare of Slaughter Animals**

**Sweden: slaughter without stunning must remain an exception**

At the May 2012 Agriculture and Fisheries Council Meeting in Brussels, the Swedish delegation presented a note on the enforcement of the general requirement to stun animals before slaughter8.

According to EU legislation, animals should only be killed after being stunned, except for religious reasons if Member States allow it. However, in many countries this derogation is not used as an exception but results in a large amount of animals being killed without stunning. Sweden has called on the European Commission to put the excessive use of slaughter without stunning at a higher priority.

Sweden also suggests the development of guidelines for best practice based on scientific evidence. In addition, the European Commission is expected to publish a report on labelling in 2013. Sweden recognises that labelling could help consumers identify the meat coming from animals killed without stunning.

In July 2011, the European Parliament supported proposals to label products from non-stun slaughter but agreed to withdraw an amendment on the issue to achieve a consensus on Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers. The Regulation, in its Recital (50), states that the stunning of animals will now be considered in the context of future EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals in 2012: “EU consumers show an increasing interest in the implementation of the Union animal welfare rules at the time of slaughter, including whether the animal was stunned before slaughter. In this respect, a study on the opportunity to provide consumers with the relevant information on the stunning of animals should be considered in the context of a future Union strategy for the protection and welfare of animals.” However, Commissioner Dalli has stated that this “does not necessarily mean that new legislation will be proposed”.

FVE is of the opinion that the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning is ‘unacceptable under any circumstances’ and that animals should be effectively stunned before slaughter. FVE calls on policy makers to stop the excessive use of slaughter without stunning as a priority.

However, as long as slaughter without stunning is permitted for religious reasons we believe that any meat or meat products from these sources should be clearly labelled to enable all consumers to make an informed choice based on welfare, ethics or personal belief when purchasing such products.

It is important to differentiate between ‘religious’ and ‘non-stun’ slaughter, according to the FVE. The Federation’s position is not concerned with the expression of religious belief but with the practice of killing by throat cutting without pre-stunning. FVE therefore advocates that labelling should refer to non-stun slaughter rather than a method of religious slaughter.

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7 [EC] No 1/2005

PUBLIC HEALTH

HYGIENE WG

Emergency slaughter and meat inspection

The new Community Animal Health Law, emergency slaughter, the decontamination of carcasses and modernisation of meat inspection were among the topics discussed at the FVE Hygiene working group meeting, held on 2 May in Brussels.

It was attended by Robert Huey (FVE Vice president, chair), Thierry Chambron (UEVP, France), Henning Knudsen (Denmark), Gundega Micule (Latvia), Cornelia Rossi-Broy (EASVO), Frank O’Sullivan (Ireland), Roberto Balbo (Malta) and Jan Vaarten (FVE Office).

In the framework of the modernisation of meat inspection, five technical hearings have been organised by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to gain advice and information from stakeholders9, with the participation of FVE:

- Meat inspection of sheep and goats (17 April), FVE expert: Frank O’Sullivan
- Farmed game meat inspection (15 May), FVE expert: Edgar Wullinger
- Bovines meat inspection (25 May), FVE Expert: Randi Stub Petersen
- Solipeds meat inspection (30 May), FVE Expert: Romano Zilli

The Hygiene working group produced a reflection paper on the modernisation of meat inspection, which will be on the agenda of the FVE Amsterdam General Assembly in June for discussion.

FOOD CHAIN

FVE reapplies for EFSA stakeholders consultative platform

FVE has applied for renewed membership of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as its current composition will expire in June 2012.

The Platform, which aims to assist the EFSA in policy development, was set up in 2005 and is made up of EU stakeholder organisations working in areas related to the food chain. Meetings are held three times a year and provide a forum for dialogue, exchanging ideas, information and views.

MEDICINES

TWO NEW LEAFLETS

FVE promotes the responsible use of antimicrobials

“How to use antimicrobials responsibly: advice for veterinarians” is the title of a new leaflet produced by the FVE with recommendations for the responsible use of medicines:

- Never prescribe antimicrobials without prior examination and diagnosis;
- Work together with your clients to reduce the need for antimicrobials;
- Use diagnostic tests, including culture and sensitivity;
- Use antimicrobials correctly;
- Use critically important antimicrobials as a last resort only;
- Avoid off-label use whenever possible;
- Record your prescription data and be prepared to report to the authorities upon request;
- Report any adverse effects.

With this leaflet, aimed specifically at veterinary practitioners, the FVE hopes to contribute to the improvement of prescription behaviour of the veterinary profession and thereby to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

A second FVE leaflet, called “How to safeguard antimicrobials now and in the future”, is aimed at policy makers. It recalls that antimicrobials are ‘vital to treat and prevent diseases in animals and humans’ but that prevention is better than cure, un-

derlining the importance of heard health plans and biosecurity. “Any political measures taken should be based on scientific evidence and risk assessment”, the FVE adds. “The animal industry should promote responsible use”, the FVE stresses, and new and critically important antimicrobials should be strictly controlled. Furthermore, the FVE calls for a “true, unrestricted single European market of medicines – increasing availability, accessibility and alternatives to antimicrobial use”. It also notes the need for research and development of diagnostic and sensitivity tests in the field. Finally, it stresses the need for campaigns – aimed at all prescribers and users of medicines – to promote the responsible and sustainable use of antimicrobials.

FVE Newsletter 7

{Image}

DANISH EU PRESIDENCY

Meeting on antimicrobial resistance: “a missed opportunity”

‘Combating antimicrobial resistance – time for joint action’, was the title of a meeting organised under the auspices of the current Danish presidency of the EU by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Danish Ministry of Health, with support from the EC’s DG Sanco. It was held in Copenhagen on March 14 and 15; presentations are now available online10.

The programme for the meeting noted: ‘The dangers of excessive use of antimicrobials have been known for decades and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in Europe is undisputed. Research has documented a link between the consumption of antibiotics in animals and resistance development in humans. This calls for collaboration between the human and veterinary sectors across the EU. Innovative ideas and exchanging of best practice are needed. In other words; it is time to take action!’

Apart from Christophe Buhot (FVE president), Rens van Dobbenburg (UEVP) and Hans-Joachim Götz (FVE vice president) also participated on behalf of FVE, while several FVE members participated as part of their national delegation.

Following the meeting, Christophe Buhot, wrote to the secretary-general of the Council of the EU to express the FVE’s disappointment about the way the conference was set up and run.

While it welcomed the initiative of the Danish presidency, the FVE had been expecting an open and active debate about joint action from the human and veterinary sectors, as suggested by the conference title. ‘However, in our opinion this was not the case,’ Dr Buhot said. ‘The selection of speakers was not well balanced. Veterinarians were never given the floor to express the position of their profession.

The FVE said that it seriously questioned the value of the conclusions drawn from the meeting, and believed that it would be wrong to have such conclusions adopted by the Council of the EU. Its concerns were widely supported by several Member States and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

FVE appreciates that its concerns have been taken into consideration by the Council conclusions which are currently being drafted and which will go much wider and more balanced than the Copenhagen meeting alone.

HMA-FVE SURVEY

Initial findings: vets call for rapid, affordable in-house sensitivity tests

In March 2012, a survey was launched into the antimicrobial prescribing habits of veterinarians in Europe, organised by the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) and FVE11.

A total of 3,017 responses from 25 countries were received, many from general practitioners working with companion animals, exceeding the expectations of FVE and HMA.

Initial feedback suggests that most veterinarians take into account the warnings on summary of product characteristics and data sheets with regard to the responsible use of antimicrobials. Also, veterinarians said they would use more sensitivity testing if results would be available more rapidly and if the tests were cheaper.


11 See March 2012 FVE Newsletter
The data also show the most common indications for which antimicrobials are prescribed.

In the coming months, the data will be further analyzed and an overview will be published. HMA and FVE wish to thank all the contributors.

**FVE medicines WG**

**Responsible use of antimicrobials high on the agenda**

Leaflets on responsible use of antimicrobials were produced by the FVE Medicines working group (MWG) following the conclusions of the November FVE conference on antimicrobial resistance and the intermediate results of the surveys on prescription behaviour. The MWG also collected existing national guidelines on the responsible use of antimicrobials, which can be accessed via the FVE website. As these guidelines all recommend bacterial diagnosis prior to treatment, the association of European Manufacturers of Veterinary Diagnostics has been contacted to gain an overview of existing on-site diagnostic sensitivity tests in Europe.

The MWG has held several meetings over the past months and discussed a variety of topics, including the use of terms in official documents. Clear definitions were needed for terms such as ‘veterinary prescription’, ‘prophylactic’, ‘metaphylactic’ and ‘therapeutic use’ of medicines, and a task force has been set up to make proposals.

Many external meetings have been held with other stakeholders, including farmers’ representatives (Copa-Cogeca) on herd health plans, physicians’ representatives (CMPE) on One Health, veterinary medicines manufacturers (IFAH), the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) on guidelines on the availability of medicines in fish and the European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals (EPRUMA) regarding the production of factsheets and posters.

**Education**

**Vet Education**

**Draft action plan produced for the ECCVT**

The European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training which is a joint committee of the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE), the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) and the FVE, met on 21 March. Representatives included László Fodor, Ana Bravo and Hans-Henrik Dietz for EAEVE, Peter O’Brien and Steven May for the EBVS, and Christophe Buhot, Andrew Robinson, Remi Gellé for the FVE. Andrew Byrne and Karin Östensson (here in the picture) were invited guests.

In an attempt to make the ECCVT ‘more proactive’, Karin Östensson presented a draft on the ‘ECCVT activity approach and action plan’ as well as a ‘Policy paper on education’. At the previous ECCVT meeting, it had been decided to produce such a document. The action plan proposes to co-ordinate European policies, in accordance to ECCVT remit.

Andrew Byrne (FECAVA) gave an update on the VetCEE project, concerning further education for veterinary practitioners, and Francesco Proscia (FVE Office) updated the participants on the recognition of professional qualifications (see page 11).

In Spain, two steps are needed before a veterinarian can practice: first, the diploma needs to be homologated and then the veterinarian should apply for a licence. It was reported that a veterinarian with a Spanish
homologation (but without a licence) had been trying to register in several other European countries. A meeting will be organised with the Spanish ministries concerned to clarify the situation.

The ‘Joint AVMA-FVE Statement on Veterinary Education’ document and the final version of the OIE paper on ‘Minimum competencies expected of the day 1 veterinary graduates to ensure delivery of high-quality national veterinary services’ will be discussed at the next ECCVT meeting, which is planned for October 2012.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

VetCEE Committee to look into further education across Europe

“Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe”, or VetCEE, is the new name of the European Board of Veterinary Professional Development project. This decision was announced at the March meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training, a committee made up of representatives of the EAEVE\(^\text{14}\), EBVS\(^\text{15}\) and FVE.

Andrew Byrne representing the UEVP\(^\text{16}\) and Fecava\(^\text{17}\), gave a presentation and said that the subcommittee for Companion Animals will keep on working on the pilot programme, on finalisation of standards and testing of the accreditation systems. VetCEE will concern a new middle-level system, more inclusive, involving all respective organisations. In that respect it cannot be part of the EBVS system. VetCEE is looking into adding credibility to the system and will therefore only consider the evaluation of providers that already have quality assurance.

An Interim Board consisting of representatives of the above-mentioned organisations is currently working on defining the validation process and on developing the statutes for the VetCEE Committee to reflect this process. For this purpose, a short business plan has been drafted. Moreover, the VetCEE Interim Board has identified a couple of existing programmes, which will be used as pilots for assessing the whole process in advance.

EAEVE

Heads of veterinary schools meet in Budapest

The 25th general assembly of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) was held on 15 and 16 May at the Veterinary Faculty of the Szent Istvan University in Budapest (Hungary), which celebrated its 225th anniversary.

On the agenda: the evaluation system, e-learning, trends in veterinary training and undergraduate animal welfare education. Regarding the evaluation system, the general assembly proposed to change the standard operation procedures so that no more than one ‘major deficiency’ leads to conditional approval and that this conditional approval is limited from five to three years. The EAEVE will also approach the American Veterinary Medical Association, to examine if the evaluation/accreditation systems can be made compatible.

Guest speakers at the meeting included Laszlo Kuster (DG Sanco), who spoke on the role of veterinary education in the framework of the statutes.

EU and consumer confidence, and Katinka de Balogh (FAO) who gave a presentation on the contribution of veterinary education to One Health. In his address to the general assembly, FVE president Christophe Buhot thanked the EAEVE for the good collaboration.

He also explained the current situation regarding the update of the EU Directive on the recognition of professional qualification. Finally, he stressed the importance of ‘One Health’. The prevention of zoonoses, food safety and also food security are major challenges for the profession, now and in the future, he said.

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\(^{14}\) European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education
\(^{15}\) European Board for Veterinary Specialisation
\(^{16}\) Union of European Veterinary Practitioners
\(^{17}\) Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations
1. Chris tell us more about you and your background

Born in 1984, I am currently based in Utrecht, the Netherlands; in my free time I work for companion animal emergency hospital, and try to keep my room clean (most often doesn’t work). I am at the 5 year of my veterinary study course and I had to bridge some months before I could actually start my sixth year. The idea was to go abroad and combine this time with a useful internship. Although Brussels was not a world stretching voyage away from Utrecht, the decision was quickly made when the FVE offered the opportunity to an internship at their office.

2. What were the tasks FVE gave to you?

Located between Jan and Nancy I installed myself at the desk they provided me, embraced it as truly my own desk and started piling up papers. During 4 months I kept myself busy with a paper on registration of antimicrobial prescription, the survey on antimicrobials prescribing behaviour and a number of smaller tasks at the office. In between I was lucky to be allowed to join a good number of meetings and appointments, both with people working for FVE and people outside of FVE. These occasions were a good opportunity to get an impression of how the FVE is perceived and also to join in on conversations (how would they know that I was just a student). Having been mostly involved with the subject of the use of antimicrobials, I dare to say that this is a subject on the veterinary agenda to stay.

3. How can veterinarians bring real added value to a responsible use of Antimicrobials?

The current situation of antimicrobial use in the veterinary sector is not sustainable one. All the solutions aside, I think it should all come down to one question, this is the vet asking him/herself: am I working to the best of my capabilities and responsibilities, or am I choosing an easy way out?
**Veterinarians are a health profession, stresses FVE**

The directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (PQD) is currently being revised. Changes that FVE would like to see implemented include the recognition of the veterinary profession as a health profession. ‘The terminology used in the current proposal in unclear, according to FVE. ‘Veterinarians are health professionals since veterinary medicine impacts extensively on public health; the Animal/Human interface places the whole veterinary science in a pivotal position aiming at reducing the exposure to hazards arising from animals, animal products and their environment. The veterinary profession in Europe fully embraces the concept of One Health.’

Regarding minimum training requirements, FVE tries to ensure that both the FVE and EAEVE will be consulted by EU Commission for relevant issues regulated by so-called delegated acts. Together with the EAEVE, FVE has implemented a well-recognized voluntary system of evaluation of the establishments for veterinary education in Europe. FVE stresses the relevance and effectiveness of such a system and is of the opinion that further steps should be taken to adopt a formal accreditation system. ‘The notification process envisaged in the legislative proposal could be supported by the FVE/EAEVE system’, FVE adds.

The professional card and language tests were other points of concern to the FVE. The EU Commission legislative proposal is expected to be ready in October 2012. An FVE briefing note

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**Briefing Note key points**

- Recital (43) and Recital (44) of the Consolidated version of the Directive 2005/36/EC of 24.03.2011 shall be re-introduced in the current proposal;
- “Health professions” terminology used in the current proposal is unclear, misleading and allowing misinterpretations. Therefore FVE calls for clear inclusion of the veterinary profession;
- Partial Access introduction (Recital (4) & Art 4f) should not apply to veterinarians and sectoral professions;
- Notification procedure of diplomas (Recital (12) & Art. 21a) by an “appropriate body” is unclear whereas FVE supports Competent Authority in carrying out such obligation.
- Updating Minimum Training Requirements (Recital (24) & Art 38, Annex V.4) via “Delegated Acts” Should include the consultation of EU professional organisations on a regular and official basis;
- Alert mechanism for “Health professionals” including Veterinarians (Recital (22) & Art 56a) requires attention and clarification especially in consideration of the notification (timing and data protection procedures) of the loss of entitlement to practice;
- European Professional Card for the temporary provision cannot replace for the veterinary profession the current procedure of “Prior Declaration” and its renewal every 1 year;
- Language tests (Recital (19) & Art 53) should take into account self employed professionals.

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**Agenda points include One health issues (medicines, new Animal Health Law, modernisation of meat inspection, honey bee health and the movement of pets), animal welfare (workshops, undergraduate training), training and professional matters and the creation of FVE recognition awards. Guest speakers include Christiane Bruschke, CVO of the Netherlands and former FVE president Walter Wind, in his capacity as councillor for Europe of the World Veterinary Association. The Brussels General Assembly will be held on 16 and 17 November.**
with all points of concern for the legislative proposal can be found on the FVE website\(^\text{19}\). The Statutory body working group (SBWG), which met on 18 April, was instrumental to produce this document. Other agenda points on the SBWG agenda was the update on the principles of certification and the definition of a veterinary surgeon.

**FVE**

**A new updated website**

The FVE has updated and improved its website. A fresh, more flexible and user-friendly design has been created. The structure remains the same but the pages have become wider, brighter, and linked to social media.

It also contains a new job page on which our members can post vacancies for free.

**TAIEX**

**EU Food safety workshop held in Kiev**

A TAIEX workshop on EU food safety legislation was held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 29 March 2012, and attended by 133 participants. FVE was represented by Gundega Micule (Permanent Representation of Latvia in Brussels, on left in the picture), member of the FVE Hygiene working group and UEVH delegate, and Bernhard Ursinitsch (Austria), UEVH junior vice president and member of the FVE Internal Audit Committee.

The objective of the workshop was to promote public health protection in Ukraine by improving the monitoring of food safety and ensuring compliance with international and EU standards in the field of food safety and quality. Ukraine is an EU neighbouring country, and the raising of standards in food safety will not only enhance the quality of food products in Ukraine but also facilitate the import and export of goods between EU and Ukraine.

The audience consisted of deans, vice-deans, senior academic and other teaching staff from Ukrainian universities and teaching institutions, veterinarians working in regional veterinary administrations, veterinary laboratories, and officials of the State Veterinary and Phyto-Sanitary Services.

**Letters**

From the next Newsletter, FVE will have a new heading: “Letters”

Do you want to submit a letter to be published in the FVE newsletter?

Letters, inquiries can be sent to francesco@fve.org

They must provide full address and contact information. They will be revised and/or shortened for publication purposes.

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