



FVE report GA Malta

One Health, one welfare, one life...

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Sections

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Practitioners

EASVO
State Officers

UEVH
Hygienists

EVERI
Veterinarians in
Education, Research
and Industry

‘Thank you for saving my life in the true spirit of One health’ – these were probably the most gratifying words spoken during the FVE general assembly, held in Malta on 25 and 26 November. During a special session on One Health, a British delegate collapsed and received 25 minutes of CPR from veterinary colleagues who had rushed to his aid. The next day he was well enough to record a short video message from hospital, referring to the meeting’s main topic.

One Health: the buzz-word in Europe

One Health was the common thread throughout the 2-day meeting. *‘We’re glad to see that FVE managed to make One Health an EU buzzword – it now even has a dedicated department in the Commission’s DG Santé,’* FVE executive director [Nancy De Briyne](#) announced. [Despoina Iatridou](#) (FVE Office) went on to describe the many [One Health initiatives](#) from FVE, including a renewed [memorandum of understanding](#) with the European organisation of medical doctors (CPME).

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, also praised the veterinarian’s ‘essential role in One Health’ during a short video address to the assembly.



The session on [One Health](#) allowed several national representatives to present their association’s initiatives on the topic, ranging

from the creation of tenure professorships and research seminars ([Finland](#)), greener veterinary practice webinars, antibiotic amnesty and highlighting the role of veterinary public health ([UK](#)) and a memorandum on comparative oncology ([Italy](#)).

Medication: off label no longer possible

Antimicrobial resistance and [medicines](#) availability were also high on the agenda. The amended [FVE position paper on coccidiostats](#) was adopted *‘in view of the increase in coccidiosis control tools, new scientific evidence and new legislative framework.’* Veterinary medicines must be prescribed in strict respect of the marketing authorisation, Nancy De Briyne continued, according to article 106 of the new Veterinary Medicines Regulation (2019/6). *‘This means practitioners cannot deviate from it, so no higher or lower dose, no shorter or longer treatment’.* *‘In other words, article 106 forbids us going off label,’* confirmed Rens van Dobbenburgh FVE president, adding that *‘so far, European decision makers have been reluctant to changing the wording, for example by replacing ‘must’ by ‘should’.* There are also critical shortages of veterinary medicines in many countries, in particular of vaccines and narrow-spectrum antimicrobials.

The European Medicines Agency has set up a network of contact persons ([SPOC delegates](#)) to help find solutions, e.g. with temporary imports. Finally, she invited all veterinarians to participate in the [survey on diagnostics](#), in particular the availability of

President

Rens van Dobbenburgh

Vice-Presidents

Thierry Chambon
Siegfried Moder
Mette Uldahl
Stanislaw Winiarczyk

antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Such testing has become mandatory for the prescription of certain antibiotics in animals.

Animal health visits: lack of implementation

There are no good and bad veterinarians, just different ways of caring, according to [Nicolas Fortané](#), a French sociologist who had analysed veterinary attitudes regarding



prudent antimicrobial use (AMU). When looking at the 468 respondents from ten European countries he identified three clusters: the business-oriented vets timidly supporting AMU, public health-oriented vets convinced of the need to reduce AMU and disillusioned vets, considering most is done already.

[Wiebke Jansen](#) (FVE Office) presented the results of the [second survey on animal health visits](#). While most countries have implemented at least part of the requirements, none have reached 100%, she observed. In particular, *'visits are largely restricted to production animals and biosecurity was only included in 21 out of the 28 countries that took part in the survey.'* She concluded; more is needed on European and national level to implement this article in a proper way and to provide preventive veterinary services to all animals.

Welfare of animals and vets

After updating the assembly of ongoing and future topics of [animal welfare](#), FVE vice president Mette Uldahl focused on *'the other side of the coin'*: the well-being of the veterinarian. She announced the launch of the FVE campaign *'United in Diversity'*, with a [dedicated website](#) and invited everyone to submit their perspectives, experiences and ideas regarding diversity, equity and inclusiveness (DEI). She also welcomed everyone to join the [16 December webinar](#) which will present key findings of the survey on DEI in the veterinary profession.



'All our colleagues are currently working without light and electricity,' recalled [Natalia Ignatenko](#), speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation. She thanked the FVE and her European colleagues for their continued support of Ukrainian veterinarians. She also announced the creation of a Ukrainian statutory body for the veterinary profession, which would be set up following a Memorandum with many representative bodies.

New boards for EVERI and UEVH

Other topics on the agenda included veterinary education and the shortage of veterinary manpower – as illustrated by the forced absence of the FVE vice president Thierry Chambon (France), who had been unable to find a locum at short notice. Rens van Dobbenburgh, FVE President, also urged everybody to participate and spread to colleagues the [VetSurvey2022](#).



During the meeting in Malta, a new board was elected for the [Union of European Veterinary Hygienists \(UEVH\)](#), with Jason Aldiss (UK, president), Iris Fuchs (Germany), Slaven Grbic (Bosnia Herzegovina), Ole Alvseike (Norway) and Alvaro Mateos Amann (Spain).

The [European veterinarians employed in education research and industry \(EVERI\)](#) also has a new board, with Milorad Radakovic (UK), Christine Fossing (Denmark), Alberto Elmi (Italy) and Bart de Leeuw (Netherlands).



FVE president Rens van Dobbenburgh thanked the Maltese colleagues for their hospitality, and announced that the FVE would be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. The spring 2023 FVE general assembly will be held on 16-17 June 2023, Zaječí, Czech Republic.