



**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training**

**Held on Wednesday 17 March 2010**

**FVE Office, 1 Rue Defacqz, Brussels**

**REPORT**

The meeting was attended by:

For **EAEVE**: Marcel Wanner (president), Hans Henrik Dietz, Ljiljana Pinter

For **EBVS**: Romagnoli (president), Frank Gasthuys, Jens Arjnberg

For **FVE**: Walter Winding (president), Karin Östensson, Andrew Robinson

Jan Vaarten (FVE secretariat)

**1. Welcome and Opening**

The meeting is chaired by the president of FVE, Walter Winding. He opens the meeting and welcomes all participants. Jens Arjnberg arrives a bit later.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Romagnoli wonders if this meeting is the 10th or 11th meeting of ECCVT.

Jan Vaarten will check it. (meetings were held on 08/11/2005, 31/03/2006, 19/01/2007, 20/04/2007, 30/10/2007, 11/04/2008, 07/10/2008, 26&27/03/2009, 29/10/2009 and 17/03/2010).

Andrew Robinson, also on behalf of the FVE and UEVP working group on veterinary medicines, wishes to raise an additional topic regarding the use of medicines for bees. It will be discussed under point 12 of the agenda "Any Other Business".

The Agenda is adopted.

**3. Report of last meeting**

On page 4 a typing error is corrected.

Romagnoli asks if the ECCVT Terms of Reference were amended. Jan Vaarten confirms that the point about ECCVT supervising EBVS has been deleted from the Terms of Reference.

With reference to the report Marcel Wanner wishes to come back on the ECCVT's position about clinical training for all animal species. Following a discussion about teaching swine diseases in countries with only very few swine (e.g. Turkey) ECCVT suggested that clinical training could be left out from the curriculum as long as the students received sufficient training in the zoo-epidemiological aspects of swine diseases. However, it appears that the

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Stephen Ware

Executive Committee of EAEVE cannot agree with this idea. They fear that this decision might open the door for many other exemptions. According to EAEVE the exemption should be restricted to "for religious reasons only". In Turkey, being a secular country, clinical training in swine diseases must be included in the curriculum.

The report is adopted without further changes.

#### 4. Action points

The deans of the German speaking schools decided to organise a joined "Vet 2011" event. It will take place during the 2011 Grüne Woche, in Berlin.

- With regard to action point 13: "Stefano Romagnoli to report in next meeting ECCVT about EBVS task force for Animal Species Specific Colleges." Stefano Romagnoli remarks that some of the EBVS-Colleges believe that there should be an additional, intermediate level of competences between the level of acknowledged vets and the EBVS diplomats. A task force has been set up by EBVS and a discussion paper has been produced which will be an agenda point at the EBVS GA.

#### 5. News from the three organisations

##### 5.1. EAEVE

Marcel Wanner emphasizes that the past year was the last year of his presidency. It has been a year of consolidation. Evaluation of the schools is well organised now, every year about 10 to 15 schools are visited and evaluated. At the moment EAEVE has 2 permanent co-workers (both part time) in the secretariat in Vienna. There are still some problems with the ENQA-membership and he seriously doubts if we should proceed on that road. According to Marcel Wanner the new EAEVE-president should focus on academic affairs like the Bologna Declaration. Another issue that should get further attention is the cohesion within the Association.

##### 5.2. EBVS

Also for Stefano Romagnoli, his term as EBVS president will finish this year. The next president will be Neil Forbes, diplomat of European College of Zoological Medicine. EBVS will continue to work on improving its credibility and visibility. Stricter guidelines for provisionally recognized Colleges will be made and liaison Officers will remain responsible for guiding a new College until its full recognition.

Further to the letter received about 1 year ago from 3 deans who expressed their concerns about the quality of some of the Colleges, EBVS has set up a survey. The outcome will be discussed at the next EBVS General Assembly. The presidents of EAEVE and FVE are invited to attend this meeting.

##### 5.3. FVE

Walter Winding reports that since 1 January 2010 FVE hosts the secretariat of the World Veterinary Association. Main topics FVE is working on at the moment are: the EU Community Animal Health Policy, veterinary medicines and animal welfare issues. FVE has good working relations with EU Commission and OIE and is working to bring its relation with FAO at the same level. FVE also aims to strengthen its relation with the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. The entering into force of the Treaty of Lisbon has reinforced the role of the Parliament.

Then Walter Winding reports on the meeting FVE had with Bernard Van Goethem Director Animal Health and Welfare of the European Commission's Directorate General SANCO (Health and Consumers). Within the Commission the attention for education seems to be growing.

Walter Winding also mentions the evaluation and possible revision of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and the Services Directive.

Marcel Wanner replies that he was in contact with Thomas Wiedmann (EU Commission DG MARKT). He says that they are thinking of introducing an evaluation system and that they might take our model.

Hans Henrik Dietz asks for further explanation of the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. FVE president Walter Winding replies that FVE will aim to get better contacts with the national Chief Veterinary Officers.

Karin Östensson asks about the current developments regarding the Bologna declaration. Marcel Wanner remarks that there is insufficient harmonization. The way it is implemented differs from country to country; the Bachelor title is used for different levels of education. It is a voluntary project and titles are not protected. Moreover the way ECTS-credits are used does not lead to a coherent approach. It adds up points but there is no final exam. According to Marcel Wanner there is a need for a final exam, subjects have to be integrated and students should develop a complete view on veterinary medicine. The Bologna process is leading away from academic studies.

Ljiljana Pinter believes that in general Biomedical programs are better integrated. She also believes that differences between titles can be overcome by focusing at "learning outcomes". Learning outcome, the achievements made throughout the years should be the base for the final exams. A good comparison of learning outcome between schools could also stimulate student mobility between the schools. Karin Östensson agrees.

The discussion then goes on about the integration of Bologna process and the Directive 2005/36. The reasons for it and the way in which it will be done are not completely clear. It is felt that although we might not always agree with the Commission we should be careful in deciding upon our strategy.

Hans Henrik Dietz remarks that most schools are not sovereign organisations. They have to follow national policies. It should be avoided that finally students will be the losers. The Copenhagen school has tried to identify schools where one could have an exchange but in the end it appeared to be complex and students simply lost the time when they went out of their own school. According to him economists and politicians developed the ideas; in theory they might work, but the specific position of professional education was not sufficiently taken into account. The topic should come back on the next ECCVT meeting.

After this discussion Walter Winding goes on with the "News from FVE". A special working group of Statutory Bodies was set up. The group is chaired by FVE vice president Stephen Ware. They will be involved in all issues related to the regulation of the profession. For countries without a statutory body the group will try to get in contact with the Competent Authority. Hans Henrik Dietz wonders if this group will also look at the issue of licensing third country citizens. This is an extremely difficult matter: documents in other languages, identification of the candidate, etc. etc. Andrew Robinson believes that it is necessary to meet the applicant in person. Maybe the issues should be standardized and regulated in the Directive.

A comparable problem is false certificates that can be bought. In Sweden there is an education program for all vets from 3rd countries (as a kind of refreshment course)

## 6. Outcome visit Spain, further actions

Walter Winding explains the background of the joint EAEVE-FVE initiative. Students were offered a 4 years training in the Lleida faculty of agriculture, followed by 2 years at the Barcelona veterinary school, leading to a veterinary title awarded by the university of Barcelona.

The EAEVE-FVE team recognizes the value of the Lleida faculty for animal sciences, but it cannot be considered as being in agreement with the “minimum of 5 years in an establishment for veterinary research and education”. So far 70 students started in Lleida, they did not yet reach the level to go to Barcelona. Obviously these students wish to become a veterinarian and they will try to achieve their goals. With a diploma of animal science, they can work as agriculture engineers. Walter Winding emphasizes that there are no principle objections against additional subjects in animal science, but these should not replace parts of the veterinary curriculum.

Following the visit to Spain and further correspondence the rector of Lleida, accepted that this “back door” approach could not be continued.

Hans Henrik Dietz is of the opinion that it is not enough to defend the current system. We should look more forward and try to identify our future goals. Walter Winding agrees and refers to the ongoing discussions in OIE.

#### 7. Report in meeting in Dublin about CPD

Following the previous meeting of ECCVT, Hans Henrik Dietz, Frank Gasthuys and Walter Winding met with Andrew Byrne and Ellen Bjerkas, on 3 March in Dublin. They spoke about the creation of a European Board for Veterinary Professional Development (EBPVD). Postgraduate training courses exist in almost all European countries. However the way these are organised, and the level of training varies widely. Because it would be very complicated, if feasible at all, to assess all courses and seminars at one point, the idea is to establish a network to scrutinise and recognise existing, national CPD-systems rather than creating a new European system. They will also look at levels of differentiation and specialisation. All members of the group will report back to their own general assemblies. A first action will be a questionnaire to investigate the current situation. The network will be a private activity, support from (EU) legislators is not expected.

Andrew Robinson underlines the difference between CPD courses and qualifications like “acknowledged veterinarian”, the two are linked together but different. CPD should have a quality factor enabling clients to know that they get good value for money. Karin Östenson asks if the reports can be distributed to members of ECCVT.

Stefano Romagnoli refers to a discussion he had with professor Thomas Blaha. Some of the species Colleges are at risk of losing membership over time. Residency programs are far too much for the average practitioner. There should be an extra intermediate level between acknowledged veterinarians and specialists. Stefano Romagnoli supports the development of a new concept, but he also foresees difficulties within EBVS. Requests for species oriented Colleges will have to be voted and representatives of the discipline oriented Colleges might be against a new layer.

#### 8. Discussion paper by task force on competences future veterinarians

EAEVE will discuss the paper after the election of a new executive committee in May. FVE will discuss it in the Board of Directors.

#### 9. Clinical training for the different animal species

Marcel Wanner starts the discussion by saying that it becomes more and more difficult for schools to provide clinical training for a whole range of animal species. EAEVE asked schools to liaise with other schools in order to be able to offer a full range.

Walter Winding agrees with the idea of cooperation between schools; the principle that a veterinarian has an overview over the species should not be lost.

Stefano Romagnoli notes that for example the new school in Nottingham will not have an hospital, they have contracts with other hospitals and a number of associated practices to cover all the species. He also stresses the importance of a research environment, a

continuous development of science is essential. Andrew Robinson gives a further explanation of the situation in the UK where the developments in Nottingham are supervised by RCVS.

Frank Gasthuys says that the diploma is polyvalent, he fears that if one starts to allow exceptions, the system will be undermined.

Karin Östensson agrees that one should try to stick to research based teaching. A close connection to research is essential, how do we secure that university training is research based? There should be clear rules and supervision

Hans Henrik Dietz believes that it is not necessary, and also not desirable that every school would do research in every area. It is better to focus on certain topics and to leave out some others. but all teachers should be involved in research.

Walter Winding says that one has to look more at the output of a school in students on the day of their graduation having all necessary competences and Day One skills. The task force should investigate what is required for young graduates.

Ljiljana Pinter stresses the need for closer collaboration between schools.

No final conclusion is drawn.

#### 10. Visibility of ECCVT

Marcel Wanner believes that ECCVT should become more visible and he suggests to make an ECCVT website. The question is raised what are the target audience and the precise goal. Marcel Wanner will ask a web designer to make a proposal.

#### 11. ECOVE and ENQA membership

Marcel Wanner says that there are still difficulties in becoming a member of ENQA. He believes that national members of ENQA are not in favor of other categories of members that could undermine their position. He wonders if it is still worth trying to become a member.

Walter Winding does not agree. He does not believe that the resistance comes from inside ENQA. According to him it is a false argument. The resistance seems to come from within EAEVE. Apparently some members don't wish to change the current situation. It blocks further developments for a few years now. We can not go on with a quality assurance system for schools that is mainly in the hands of the schools, this is not credible.

Karin Östensson believes that national accreditation systems look at different aspects, they have a different approach. One can even have more accreditations for different quality systems.

Stefano Romagnoli then suggest to see if we can have another meeting with ENQA, FVE and EAEVE should go together.

#### 12. Any Other Business

Andrew Robinson reports from the meeting of the FVE/UEVP working group on veterinary medicines. Bee keepers wish to use antimicrobials without the intervention of veterinarians, they argue that there are not enough veterinarians with sufficient knowledge about bees. There are a few schools that teach bee diseases, veterinary students should be stimulated to follow extra courses in these schools. Similar problems occur with other animal species like lamas.

Marcel Wanner suggests appointing a successor for FVE ECOVE member John Williams. According to him the successor should be a women, young, have experience and come from an eastern European country. Walter Winding replies that FVE is well capable to appoint a suitable person when the time has come.

Marcel Wanner says that he keeps on having difficulties in communicating with OIE.

For Marcel Wanner and Frank Gasthuys, this meeting is the last meeting of EECVT. Stefano Romagnoli will become past president of EBVS and stay within ECCVT. The situation for Jens Arjnberg is not clear. Walter Winding thanks, also on behalf of the other members of ECCVT Marcel Wanner and Frank Gasthuys for their input and cooperation. He also thanks them for the friendship he experienced through the years. His words are underlined with a small present.

### **13. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7 October 2010 in the FVE office (later postponed to 27 October). This meeting will be chaired by EBVS.