



Summary report of

the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training

held on Wednesday 27 October 2010 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

FVE office, 1 rue Defacqz, B-1000 Brussels

Members

Austria  
Belgium  
Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
FYROM  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Serbia  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
United Kingdom

Observers

Albania  
Ukraine

Sections

UEVP  
Practitioners

EASVO  
State Officers

UEVH  
Hygienists

EVERI  
Veterinarians in  
Education, Research  
and Industry

The meeting is attended by:

For **EAEVE**: Laszlo Fodor (president) Hans Henrik Dietz, Ljiljana Pinter

For **EBVS**: Stefano Romagnoli, Frank Gasthuys,

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

**Decisions and Action points**

- Next meeting provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 31 of March 2011. Alternative dates that should be kept in reserve are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
- JV to make corrections in report of previous meeting
- JV to re-insert "supervision of EBVS" in the paper on composition and remit of ECCVT
- KÖ, HHD and JV to continue to work on an ECCVT draft vision and policy paper and to circulate it well before the next meeting
- JV to prepare a letter to the initiators of the conference held in Maisons Alfort
- JV to draft a letter on behalf of ECCVT with our remarks on the conclusions of the OIE education conference (N.B. this was already done in the beginning of the year)
- JV to invite EAEVE, EBVS, FVE, Statutory Bodies Working Group and FECAVA. to nominate a member and an alternate for the interim board of the European Board for Veterinary Professional Development and to arrange a meeting.

**1. Welcome and opening**

Stefano Romagnoli opens the meeting and welcomes all participants. Neil Forbes – president of EBVS - is unable to attend the meeting. Frank Gasthuys replaces him. Peter O'Brien (EBVS) planned to attend the meeting but had to cancel. He sends his apologies.

Stefano Romagnoli regrets that the date for meeting had to be changed. Walter Winding explains the exceptional reasons, which are then accepted.

President

Walter Winding

Vice-Presidents

Christophe Buhot  
Ljiljana Markuš  
Rainer Schneichel  
Stephen Ware

A next meeting is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 31 of March 2011. This date will be circulated by e-mail. Alternatives that should be kept in reserve are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

Stefano Romagnoli asks reports of the meeting to be circulated shortly after the meeting.

## **2. Tour de Table: introduction new members of ECCVT**

The only new member of ECCVT present in the meeting is Laszlo Fodor, president of EAEVE. He gives a summary of his background and underlines that EAEVE wishes to collaborate with the other two member organisations in a constructive way.

## **3. Adoption of the agenda (FVE/10/am/046a)**

Stefano Romagnoli remarks that EBVS would like to come back to the earlier decision of ECCVT to stop its supervision over EBVS. This item will be dealt with under point 5 of the agenda: "Aims and Objectives of ECCVT".

## **4. Report of the last ECCVT meeting (FVE/10/am/046)**

- Typing errors are corrected.
- The last sentence of the second paragraph under item 4 (*In their opinion ....*) is deleted.
- The last sentence of the seventh paragraph under item 5.3 (*We should avoid.....*) is deleted and replaced by "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 next month"
- The last sentence of the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph under point 9 should read: "It is better to focus on certain topics and to leave out some others, but all teachers should be involved in research"

## **5. Aims and Objectives of ECCVT (see doc FVE/04/doc/95/final, amended as FVE/09/doc/077)**

In the ECCVT meeting of 26 March 2009 in Padova, a discussion took place about the fact that ECCVT was expected to supervise EBVS. Accepting this task would include a responsibility for what is actually going on in EBVS. Since it was felt that ECCVT was not able to take real responsibility for the work of EBVS, it was decided to delete "Supervision of EBVS" from the remit of ECCVT. The decision would also underline that the three organisations are equal and independent members of ECCVT platform.

However, according to its own rules EBVS must have a supervising body. Being supervised by ECCVT would also give more weight to the work of EBVS. Stefano Romagnoli therefore proposes to re-insert the re-moved sentence. The proposal is adopted. After each EBVS GA, the activities of EBVS will be presented (in the form of a summary report of the meeting of the GA) to ECCVT.

The item "Aims and Objectives of ECCVT" was put on the agenda to help all members of ECCVT, and especially new members, to have a common understanding of the role of ECCVT. However it leads to a more fundamental discussion about the – future - role and tasks of ECCVT. It is felt that ECCVT should be revitalized.

Hans Henrik Dietz stresses that ECOVE, the successor of JEC, is charged with the evaluation of the schools. It works "according to the book" and does not deal with political issues. These matters should be forwarded to ECCVT. ECCVT – the successor of JPC – is the body that responsible for developing policies and strategies with regard to the future of veterinary education in Europe.

Karin Östenson says that she has started to work on a policy paper but she didn't find time enough to finish the work. Together with Hans Henrik Dietz and Jan Vaarten she will continue to work on the paper. A draft, including a mission paper and an action plan, will be circulated well before the next meeting. Laszlo Fodor adds that the paper should summarize the past and look forward into the future.

An item that is brought into the discussion is the visibility of ECCVT and it is suggested to develop a web site. Walter Winding supported the idea to be more visible, but also thinks that a web site is a helpful tool - and not more than that - to convey the goals and messages we wish to spread. These have to be identified first. He also remarks that we should more act together "as one ECCVT".

Jan Vaarten refers to the upcoming education meeting in May 2011 in Lyon. Here we should act and be visible as ECCVT. It is agreed to write the organizing Committee to try to have an ECCVT-speaker in the program.

*For information*

*The education conference is organized by « VetAgro Sup» <http://www.vetagro-sup.fr> with a steering committee comprising all international associations active in this field (EAEVE, AVMA, OIE, FVE,...). It is set up under high patronage of OIE.*

Laszlo Fodor remarks that ECCVT should send its comments on the recommendations made by last year's conference to OIE. (JV: This was already done. A copy of the letter will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting).

Another body where we could go as ECCVT, suggested by Hans Henrik Dietz is TAIEX, the Technical and Information Exchange tool of DG Enlargement of the European Commission.

Another suggestion that is made is to work closer together with the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges AAVMC. Walter Winding mentions the meeting FVE will have with AVMA at the occasion of the next FVE GA in November. Hans Henrik Dietz mentions that Dr Elisabeth Sabin, who is responsible for foreign affairs in the AVMA office and who is involved in ABVS, took part in the visitation of the Copenhagen School.

Stefano Romagnoli explains the interactive web site of EBVS. It appears to be an effective tool for members to communicate.

## **6. European Board of Veterinary Professional Development**

Walter Winding says that following the presentation of Andrew Byrne (FECAVA) to ECCVT a task group was established. The group had two meetings, and the reports were sent to all participating organisations. Since there is no international legal basis for professional development the task force proposes ECCVT to take the initiative. Evaluation and recognition of national systems could be a first step. Later this could be followed by evaluation of individual courses. An "interim board" composed by representatives of the founding organisations should prepare a mission statement, statutes, etc. At a later stage there will be a kind of overarching steering committee plus technical working groups per discipline. By then the organisation should have its own secretariat and budget.

ECCVT agrees with the proposal. It is decided that the following organisations will be invited to participate in the interim board: EAEVE, EBVS, FVE, Statutory Bodies Working Group, and FECAVA. They will be invited by ECCVT to nominate a member and 1 alternate.

Andrew Robinson remarks that a questionnaire was sent to the members of UEVP and that the outcome will be reported in the next UEVP GA. Also FECAVA has circulated a questionnaire.

## **7. Workshop "Towards a Mediterranean Union for Veterinary Education" held in Maisons Alfort on 7 and 8 October 2010**

The meeting was held in Maisons Alfort and supported by TAIEX. EAEVE (Gert Niebauer) and FVE (Jan Vaarten) were invited by TAIEX to give a presentation. Some other EAEVE members and FVE vice president Stephen Ware were also present at the conference. Conclusions of this meeting are circulated.

At the meeting a number of schools located in countries around the Mediterranean gave a presented a summary of their curriculum and facilities. The question is raised how useful it would be for EAEVE and FVE to start the evaluation of schools outside Europe. The number of evaluations to be done each year already is high. On the other hand why should it be refused if they ask for it? In fact this happens already e.g. Jerusalem.

Laszlo Fodor suggests that it could be a good idea to start with so-called pre-visitations. These are less complicated and cheaper. They could be helpful for the schools to learn the requirements, to see where weak points are and how to improve these.

It is not fully clear who took the initiative for the meeting. Jan Vaarten is asked to find out who the organizers are and to send them a letter on behalf of ECCVT. The letter should explain who ECCVT is, that ECCVT has noticed the initiative, would like to receive further information, and is interested to be involved..

### **8. Conference on Veterinary Education, Lyon (Fr) May 2011**

<http://www.wcve2011.org/>      <http://www.vet2011.org/>

Further to the discussion under point 5 it is agreed that at the occasion of the FVE GA, Walter Winding will speak with Jean-François Chary about the conference.

*For information meetings in May next year*

- *Education conference 16-18 May in Lyon*
- *EU Veterinary Week conference 19-20 May in Brussels*
- *Opening OIE General Session 22 May in Paris*

### **9. Developments regarding the Bologna declaration**

Many members of ECCVT are very unhappy with the Bologna process. It is felt that it is an administrative matter, mainly introduced to reduce education costs. For ECCVT bachelor in veterinary medicine is not a professional degree (except for UK schools). What counts are the at least 5 years full time education in veterinary medicine.

The Bologna process is not an EU initiative. It was made by a number of ministers of education from different of countries. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Master and Bachelor titles are not protected.

*For information: Treaty of Lisbon, article 165, paragraph 1.*

*The Union shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.*

*The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.*

From the Treaty it is clear that in the EU the contents of education is a Member State competence. EU legislation focuses on the free movement of people and services, and for that reason on the recognition of qualifications by the Member States.

Jan Vaarten says that in his opinion it is important to have a clear idea about the veterinarian, his, role responsibilities and mandate. At the moment every one has some ideas but these

are not necessarily the same. A common vision should be developed; we have to identify the veterinarian. This vision is the base for the organisation of education and training. It is proposed to put this in the ECCVT vision paper.

It is also proposed to bring the item to the attention of the EU parliament. We should also liaise with the medical profession.

## **10. News from the three member organisations**

### **10.1. EAEVE**

- At the last GA, held in Vienna, Laszlo Fodor was elected as president.
- Robin Oakley retired from the secretariat. He is succeeded by Gert Niebauer.
- At the moment there are no plans to make important changes.
- Laszlo Fodor confirms that EAEVE wishes the evaluation system to be accredited by ENQA. He believes that current problems can be solved. Rumours that ENQA would not like the idea are not correct. One point that should be changed here is that the decision making body (now: ECOVE) cannot be owned by two different legal entities. He suggests to bring it under EAEVE and to keep three places available for FVE. Walter Winding confirms the vision of Laszlo Fodor and remarks that FVE wishes to remain part of the evaluation system. If that can be satisfactorily guaranteed, FVE will be happy to accept the changes. These will then have to be worked into the SOP.
- The Italian government is taking serious measures to improve the level of the Italian veterinary education. Schools that are not approved by EAEVE/FVE will face difficulties. For example. Catanzarro is no longer allowed to accept new students.

### **10.2. EBVS**

- EBVS had an exceptional General Assembly due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland.
- Stefano Romagnoli presents a summary of the report of the meeting and highlights important issues. A copy will be circulated.
- Dates for following EBVS GAs are 15-16 April 2011 and 20-21 April 2012

### **10.3. FVE**

- Walter Winding mentions the contacts with AVMA.
- He also refers to the new FVE draft Strategy Paper and the paragraph about education. Hopefully the paper will be adopted at the next GA.
- Elections for a new board of FVE are foreseen for the spring 2011 GA, which will be held on 10 and 11 June in Palermo (Italy)

## **11. Date of the next meeting**

The date is provisionally set at 31 March 2011, possible alternatives are 6 and 7 April.

## **12. End of the meeting**

Stefano Romagnoli thanks all participants for their valuable contributions and closes the meeting.