



SZENT ISTVÁN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE



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Prof. Marcel Wanner, President

European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education
Vienna Office
Biberstrasse 22/8.
1010 Vienna, Austria

10th March, 2010

Dear President Prof. Marcel Wanner,

Herewith I would like to apply for the presidency of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education according to Article 10 of its Statutes.

I meet the criteria:

- I am the dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Szent István University Budapest,
- Our school has been approved two times (1995, 2004),
- Four deans/rectors/presidents support my candidacy:
 - (i) Prof. Ana Bravo del Moral, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Santiago de Compostella, Lugo (geographical group 2),
 - (ii) Prof. Ioan Groza, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca (geographical group 3),
 - (iii) Dr. Gerhard Greif, President of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (geographical group 5),
 - (iv) Prof. Emil Pilipčinec, Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (geographical group 7).

I would greatly appreciate, if you considered my application and forwarded it to the members of the General Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

L. Fodor

Attachments:

- Curriculum vitae
- List of publications
- Electoral manifesto
- Letters of recommendation (3 original, 1 photocopy)

Electoral Manifesto

Herewith I apply to the presidency of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) according to Article 10 of its Statues.

EAEVE was founded in 1988 by deans of veterinary schools in Europe with the aim of promoting and harmonising veterinary education in the continent and to reach and maintain a high standard of it. The past 22 years have verified the decision, by now with 95 members from Europe, Turkey and Israel EAEVE has become the most widely accepted body of veterinary education in Europe. Similarly to other professional associations in higher education it gives a forum for deans, rectors and presidents of veterinary schools to discuss hot issues of veterinary education, exchange ideas on teaching, research, university structure, management etc. Furthermore it operates a unique evaluation system, the only one in the case of controlled professions in the European Union. It helps the schools to let out uniformly well trained graduates and it guaranties the smooth mobility of veterinarians in Europe. The primary aim of the next president should be – as it was that of the previous ones – to maintain and develop these activities for the benefit of the member schools and the veterinary profession.

The next president should focus on several points; she or he has to help the schools to solve coming issues in the next future:

1. Intensive discussions are needed on the veterinary curriculum in the different schools,
2. Introduction of new teaching methods,
3. Promotion of postgraduate education (Ph.D) and continuing education,
4. An important mission of EAEVE to help the development of the veterinary schools of less developed areas within and outside the EU, this activity has to be strengthened,
5. Development and refining the evaluation system to reach a better acknowledgement of it,
6. An outstanding interest of the EAEVE is to widen the connections of the Association with other professional and veterinary educational organisations within Europe and worldwide.

Ad 1

Veterinary training faces great challenges in the recent and in the coming years. Intensive discussions are needed on the veterinary curriculum in the different schools to share experiences. Certain fields of the veterinary activity are not so attractive for graduates; there are vacancies in farm animal practice, food hygiene, veterinary public health, veterinary administration, research, while it is difficult to find a job in small animal practice. We have to find the way to initiate interest in the students to the above areas. In order to maintain a high level of education and research at the veterinary schools, they have to find the way how to attract talented students to start with a research career. On the other hand the society needs graduates with good practical skills and a higher level of day-one competences. In certain areas of Europe the number of some animal species is decreasing, we have to find the way how to provide clinical training in all farm animal species in the member schools.

There is a disagreement among the different schools on the necessity of introduction of the Bologna system into the veterinary education. Though this is a hot issue, raising lot of debate, it can't be avoided to discuss and share experiences for sake of avoiding further disagreement and lack of harmony in the curricula of the veterinary schools. To neglect the significance of the introduction of the system at certain schools would be a great mistake.

Despite of the fact, that the professionals graduating from the institutions of the veterinary education have a general knowledge, a certain level of specialisation seems to be unavoidable within the undergraduate education. Again, sharing experiences and finding the optimal balance between omnicompetence and specialisation needs consultations on this topic.

Ad 2

The schools have to share their experiences on introduction new teaching methods. The use of electronic books, the spread of e-learning mean a challenge to the teaching staff; new teaching methods have to be developed and teachers have to use them widely. On the other hand personal contact with the teacher, direct contact with the animal cannot be eliminated, so a sound balance has to be found. More experience has to be collected to find the right place and right weight of e-learning in undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary education.

An other development in recent years is the growing significance of extramural practices in veterinary education, which takes over the task of the otherwise overburdened university and faculty clinics. The harmonisation of the expectations to these extramural places of education (accreditation) should also be discussed.

Ad 3

Strengthening a well working and well organized system of postgraduate education is vital for veterinary schools. Besides helping to maintain the up to date professional knowledge of professionals working in the field, it also helps to attract and select the most motivated and talented graduates, employ them in teaching and research, which is important in the permanent complementation of the academic staff at the veterinary schools. Besides that, the graduates having a scientific degree, will also find employment in the diagnostic service, industry, veterinary administration etc. which enhances the reputation of the schools responsible for producing highly trained veterinarians. In most countries veterinary schools are involved in continuing education ("life long learning"). Exchange of ideas can be beneficial in this field, too.

Ad4

All veterinary schools of the Association have responsibility in having an overall high level of veterinary training in Europe. For this reason the well developed schools have to support the less developed ones within and outside the EU. Finding financial resources to this activity will be an important task of the next president. Using grants from the EU and special funds of the EU, like TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) have to be priority of the Association. For this reason connections with TAIEX have to be strengthened and extended. Encouraging the work in common projects, applying for common grants by consortia formed by institutions and research groups in different regions of Europe (from member and non-member states of EU) should be approved by the Association.

Ad 4

Running the evaluation system is one of the main activities of the Association. In the recent years a new and successful structure was implemented, which needs only slight refining. The next president has to initiate formation of shared values and uniform priorities of the visiting

teams and the European Committee on Veterinary Education (ECOVE) to prevent discrepancies between their opinions. Compiling a list of Category 1 deficiencies has to be a priority of the next president. Following the results of the Committee for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA), a continuous refining of the evaluation system is encouraged. Regarding the evaluation system its public acknowledgement is a top priority, for this reason getting a membership of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) remains a priority; however other ways of official acknowledgement are welcomed as well.

Ad 5

Understanding that EAEVE can reach political decision makers better by joining forces with other professional organisations is very important for our Association. Therefore strengthening the connections with the sister organisations [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), European Board for Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), World Veterinary Association (WVA) etc.], and extending the already existing collaborations has to be a priority of the new president.

Thanks to the outstanding activity and efforts of President Prof. Marcel Wanner, the regional representatives of the Executive Committee and all member schools, the Association has reached a good position in the recent years. It is an internationally acknowledged body, there is an agreement within the Association on the priorities, and there are no tensions within the organisation, which could block its activities. The EAEVE has a solid financial background and by establishing a permanent office, the conditions of a smooth functioning are given. As a regional representative of the Executive Committee in the recent two years and treasurer for more than a year I agreed with all these changes. The next president is in a good position, since she/he only has to follow this track.

As a candidate for presidency I would like to implement the above ideas together with and having the support of the regional representatives and the member schools. I would like to introduce changes after careful discussions understanding the differences of the various schools. Having been involved in the work of EAEVE for about 10 years, working in more evaluation teams, being a member of the Executive Committee and treasurer I think that I am aware of the possibilities and the limitations of the Association.

Now, I would like to thank everybody, who will support me with her/his vote and in case of being elected to president I would like to convince those representatives, who would not vote for me that these ideas will be beneficial for all of us. To reach our goals the new president needs definitely the support of the whole Association. If I will be elected, I ask for your help now, in advance. If you chose one of the other candidates, I can promise her/him my full support and help, because only an Association of one voice can be strong enough to reach results.

Budapest, 10th March, 2010

László Fodor