Background

The role of veterinarians in veterinary public health requires significant competences in several fields such as: food hazards identification, risk assessment procedures, food safety control procedures, auditing of hygiene practices, laboratory testing methods and legal issues.

The FVE Board of Directors therefore wishes the FVE Working Group on food safety and quality to assist FVE in developing its position in such area.

Composition of the Working Group

The Working Group will consist of a maximum of 7 experts, nominated by FVE member organisations and appointed by the FVE Board. Members will be appointed for a period of 3 years. A chair will be appointed by the FVE Board. The chair will be responsible for chairing the meetings, leading the discussions, maintaining contact with the secretariat, making progress reports and a final report to the Board of Directors.

Tasks

1. To assist FVE in responding to the drafting of Tertiary Legislation regarding:
   a. Official Controls Regulation - General and specific provisions of Art. 15 and all the tasks related to the role of the Official Veterinarian and the role of the Official Auxiliary in the slaughterhouse;
   b. Official Controls Regulation - General and specific provisions regarding the border inspections posts, their role and tasks to be carried out;


3. To monitor any legislative change in regards the food chain information model for livestock; promote the FVE Food Chain Information guidance among policy makers;

4. To assist FVE in developing its position with regard to food safety and quality and all relevant veterinary issues (Microbiological criteria, Campylobacter control measures, swine poultry cattle inspection);
5. To assist FVE in participating in technical meetings if deemed necessary.

Secretarial support

Secretarial support (organising meetings and teleconferences, writing minutes, circulating documents, etc) will be provided by the FVE Secretariat.

External Communication

External Communication related to FVE policies shall only take place after consultation with the FVE Board or the Executive Director.

Costs

It is foreseen that the Working Group will have approximately 2 physical meetings each year. Further communication will as much as possible take place via e-mail and/or teleconferences.

Costs for the physical meeting(s) such as travel and accommodation costs, meeting room, lunch during meetings, will be borne by FVE in accordance with the FVE rules on reimbursement.

The Board may decide to invite the chair of the Working Group to attend other meetings, such as a meeting of the Board or the General Assembly, to report on the group’s progress or on certain documents. Costs associated with such visits will also be carried by FVE.

The group may invite external experts to its meetings if deemed appropriate. In case costs arise out of such invitations, the invitation will be made after consultation with the FVE Executive Director.