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FVE Brexit negotiation plea

Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health and the Protection of the Environment are major societal concerns. The veterinary profession plays a key role in addressing these concerns, including the areas of sustainable animal husbandry and antimicrobial resistance.

The ongoing Brexit negotiations could have a serious impact on the way how Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health and the Protection of the Environment are being assured nowadays. The outcome of the negotiations can easily affect the contribution the veterinary profession is able to make towards the confidence citizens can have in the current assurance schemes.

With this document the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe asks politicians and decision makers to keep in mind the vital role veterinarians play and not to jeopardise the current levels of Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Public Health and Environmental Protection.

1. Ensure continued mutual recognition and licensing of veterinary degrees

The veterinary profession is a very mobile profession. About 6% of all European veterinarians have worked in another country in the last 3 years¹. Many UK vets work or provide temporary services in other European countries and the UK is very reliant on graduates of EU veterinary schools to meet domestic demand for veterinary services. Over half of vets registering in the UK each year come from overseas, the vast majority from the EU².

FVE represents the veterinary profession in Europe. We believe UK veterinarians working in the EU and EU veterinarians working in the UK, should be allowed to stay working and living as before.

FVE is in favour for the continued mutual recognition between the EU and the UK of degrees in veterinary medicine (from EAEVE approved or accredited veterinary faculties) and veterinary specialisation degrees under EBVS.

2. Ensure no reduction in availability of veterinary medicines

Veterinarians need veterinary medicines to prevent and treat diseases in animals. The way veterinary medicines are authorised, marketed and used is regulated by European legislation. Some countries heavily rely on joint

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¹ FVE (2015) Survey of the Veterinary Profession in Europe: http://www.fve.org/news/download/FVE%20Survey_full_final.pdf

² RCVS: <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-events/news/college-calls-for-certainty-around-the-rights-of-eu-nationals/>

licensing and packaging with the UK. It is vital that 'Brexit' negotiations does ensure ongoing access to all existing and new veterinary medicines licensed through the EU and other regulatory systems and does not lead to interrupted supply difficulties. This would put at risk animal health, welfare, feed safety and our leading role in tackling antimicrobial resistance internationally.

3. Maintain current animal health, animal welfare and food safety standards

Both for the UK as the other EU countries, it is vital that skilled veterinary staff is available and the current animal health and welfare standards will remain. This should be prioritised in trade negotiations. Both parties should commit to maintaining a single standard for meat produced for both domestic and export markets based on current standards of food hygiene legislation and enforcement, including veterinary certification and controls.

4. Ensure continuous surveillance data sharing

The EU has developed strong surveillance and rapid alert systems in various fields, such as surveillance of the use of antibiotics in animals (ESVAC), antibiotic resistance monitoring in animals and food (EFSA), infectious transmissible diseases and a rapid food and feed alert system (RASFF) . Both the EU and UK should continue to share data in the future.

5. Ensure continuous collaboration in the field of research

The EU is a global centre for research and innovation, which is important for the future of Europe. Researchers mobility is encouraged. Agreement should be found so that the EU and the UK can continue to collaborate on major science, research, and technology initiatives.

FVE membership is wider than the EU, in total FVE has already members from 38 European countries, several of them outside the EU. Therefore, Brexit will make no difference for FVE. FVE will continue to collaborate with our UK members, namely the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as before.

Further info:

[UK BVA Brexit principles](#)

[RCVS Brexit principles](#)

[BVA: Brexit and the Veterinary Profession](#)

[UK Parliament: European Union Committee Brexit: farm animal welfare](#)

[Irish Health Products Regulatory Agency statement on veterinary medicines](#)