



**2015 Memorandum of Understanding between  
the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and  
the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) in the field of 'One Health'**

**Preamble**

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (hereafter referred to as FVE) and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (hereafter referring as CPME) have come together to collaborate and to jointly act in recognition of the concept of 'One Health'. FVE and CPME (hereafter referred as "partners") recognise the benefits of a 'One Health' concept and commit themselves to future cooperation. A first memorandum between CPME and FVE focused on fighting antimicrobial resistance and was agreed in January 2013. That agreement has led to several successful joint initiatives, such as the development of joint leaflets raising awareness about antimicrobial resistance and responsible use of antibiotics. Additionally a joint conference called 'Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe: Doctors and Veterinarians emphasise "prevention is better than cure"' was organised in 2014 under the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU.

FVE was founded in 1975. Today, it represents 46 national veterinary organizations across 38 European countries and 4 vibrant Sections, each of which represents key groups within our profession: Practitioners (UEVP), Hygienists (UEVH), Veterinary State Officers (EASVO) and Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI). FVE supports veterinarians to make the biggest possible contribution to animals' and people's health and welfare and works to better understand and manage how people and animals interact.

CPME was founded in 1959. It represents the National Medical Associations of 28 countries in Europe and works closely with the National Medical Associations of countries that have applied for EU membership as well as specialized European medical associations. CPME aims to promote the highest standards of medical training and medical practice in order to achieve the highest quality of health care for all patients in Europe. CPME is also concerned with the promotion of public health, the relationship between patients and doctors and the free movement of doctors within the European Union. CPME offers broad expertise in matters related to medicine and the medical profession.

CPME and FVE believe in a 'One Health' approach. This approach aims to expand interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of healthcare for humans, animals and the environment. The synergism allows advancing health care by improving medical education and clinical care, accelerating biomedical research discoveries, enhancing public health efficacy, and expeditiously expanding the scientific knowledge base. Health professionals have recognised the value and necessity of their close collaboration at all levels; education, medical and veterinary practice, national and international collaboration. The main areas of involvement include lowering the burden of zoonotic diseases, fighting antimicrobial resistance, ensuring food safety and food security as well as improving the global health status for healthier animals and healthier people.

One example of a global 'One Health' problem is Antimicrobial resistance. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has raised awareness of this risk<sup>1</sup> and has introduced a "Policy package to combat antimicrobial resistance"<sup>2</sup>. The need for taking joint actions to combat drug resistance both in medical and veterinary field is clearly mentioned in there.

The present Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter MoU) sets out a framework for cooperation of the two partners, taking into account all the above mentioned.

### **Key principles**

The key principles, which the cooperation under this MoU would be founded on, are:

- The partners recognise that a 'One Health' approach can advance health care by improving medical education and clinical care, accelerating biomedical research discoveries, enhancing public health efficacy, and expeditiously expanding the scientific knowledge base. .
- The partners recognise that antimicrobial resistance is a 'One Health' issue and believe both European doctors and veterinarians should continue an active role as a spearhead in containing antimicrobial resistance.
- The partners recognise the need for taking action immediately in order to preserve existing antimicrobials' efficacy, in order to ensure adequate future treatment for both humans and animals.
- The partners recognise that additional research and development of new human and veterinary antimicrobial compounds are absolutely necessary, in order to be prepared to efficiently combat resistant strains in the future.
- The partners support the need for enhanced cooperation and interaction between both the medical and veterinary fields on a pan-European level, in order to ensure that well-coordinated efforts will lead to successful results. Measures to be taken, in order to ensure prudent use of antimicrobials, shall always be based on science evidence and on assessment of the impact they will have both on containing antimicrobial resistance, as on the patients.
- The partners recognise that the fight against antimicrobial resistance is a joint responsibility. All partners including doctors, veterinarians, European and national authorities, patients, farmers and the society as a whole, shall take their responsibility and work together for the common good.
- The partners recognise that many professional issues are similar and as such it would be beneficial to increase collaboration in the field on education, recognition of professional qualifications, professional well-being and other aspects relevant to liberal professionals.
- The partners recognise that the internet is a useful tool to health professionals, patients, animal owners and the society. However we have to be mindful that it can also be abused. Therefore a transparent regulatory framework, in particular with regard to the selling of human and veterinary medicines, has to apply.
- The partners recognise the importance of the global issue of 'food security' and that the food for both people and animals needs to be nutritious and safe. Food safety includes freedom from harmful micro-organisms, freedom from contaminants but also food integrity, that the food is what it claims to be.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/en/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/policybriefs/en/index.html>

- The partners recognise that rapid travel and exchange of goods, animals and people is part of the current lifestyle. Therefore we have to broaden our perspective and recognise the global context of policies.

#### Framework of cooperation

The partners agree to realise the above mentioned principles by taking the following steps.

1. The partners will continue to work jointly with EU institutions and agencies in order to assist policy-makers by providing their expertise, with a view to ensure that measures and/or actions taken will embrace both the medical and veterinary field through an equal and collaborative approach.
2. The partners will continue to launch and run common campaigns, conferences and/or events for raising awareness of public, focusing on and stressing the importance of the 'One Health' approach.
3. The partners will work together on matters related to the regulation of health professions.
4. One key area of action in the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance is the development of strategies that promote prudent use of antimicrobials. The partners will work together on the up-take of prudent prescription practices throughout Europe both in the medical as in the veterinary field. The partners will particularly urge for prescription of antimicrobials becoming mandatory in all EU countries and provided exclusively by a medical doctor, dentist or veterinarian.
5. The partners will collaboratively advocate and promote the importance of continuous education and training on the responsible use of antimicrobials and sustainable practices for both medical and veterinary practitioners. The partners agree that wherever possible preventative measures are preferable to treatment with antibiotics.
6. The partners will collaboratively advocate for the importance of promoting research and development of new antimicrobial compounds both for humans and animals.
7. The partners will strive to ensure that EU policies with a global dimension, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), safeguard both human and animal health.
8. The present MoU does not replace, but complements, the previous version. The partners agree that this MoU may be reviewed regularly.
9. It is agreed that there will be occasions whereby it will not be possible to endorse a joint position. In such circumstances, both organisations commit to respect the views of the other party, and to ensure that this does not undermine the spirit or continued application of this MoU.


Brussels, 16 November 2015

On behalf of CPME



Dr Katrín FJELDSTED  
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On behalf of FVE



Dr Rafael LAGUENS  
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