



FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE

Polish National Veterinary Chamber
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Subject: Call to support official veterinarians Poland

Brussels, 25 October 2022

FVE/COR/22/022

Dear President of the Polish National Veterinary Chamber,
Dear Prezes Krajowej Rady Lekarsko-Weterynaryjnej lek. wet. Marek Mastalerek,

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) has received a concerning letter from the Polish Association of State Veterinary Officers, supported by many other veterinary organisations. The letter contained a plea for aid and support regarding the low remuneration of Polish State Veterinary Officers. FVE shares their concern that this could endanger animal health and welfare, and public health including food safety.

The work of State Veterinary Officers is essential to set up and maintain a strong network of Veterinary Services and therefore we have shared this letter with our two specialist sections in this area – EASVO and UEVH. State Veterinary Officers have a key role in supporting improved animal health and welfare along with food and feed safety and underpinning international trade in products of animal origin. State Veterinary Officers are crucial in delivering official controls for all different establishments including in slaughterhouses and on farm. The role of State Veterinary Officers has become even more important in these times of multiple serious outbreaks of notifiable diseases (e.g. HPAI and ASF), economic instability and to meet the ambitious climate goals in which livestock plays an important role.

As said in the WOAHP PVS tool: *“Veterinary Services preserve and develop animal resources, reducing poverty and hunger worldwide through improving rural livelihoods and feeding the world. Their additional impact on global health security by addressing ‘risk at source’ for emerging pandemic threats, antimicrobial resistance and food safety crises further safeguards the planet. For these compelling reasons, supporting the livestock sector through investments in national animal health systems, based on international standards and principles of ‘good governance’, promotes and safeguards trade and protects and develops all communities, from global to local.”* One of the four PVS domains emphasises *“the importance to have enough human, physical and financial resources to effectively plan, coordinate and implement activities within the veterinary domain covering all necessary elements and at all levels, in the national interest”*.

President

Rens van Dobbenburgh

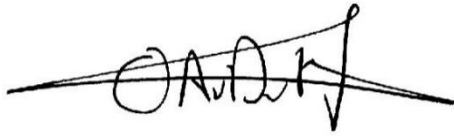
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Therefore, we urge the Polish Government to provide the resources (both human and financial) to ensure to keep a strong veterinary service network in Poland. A survey of FVE in 2020, showed that remuneration of Polish State Veterinary Officers was very low in comparison with other European countries. This is worrying as this might lead to State Veterinary officers leaving their job as a result. This could endanger animal health and welfare, public health and food safety and security, and undermine international trade.

Yours sincerely,

Rens van Dobbenburgh
FVE President



Signed on behalf of [FVE](#) and the FVE Sections:

- Section of veterinary practitioners ([UEVP](#))
- Section of state officers ([EASVO](#))
- Section of veterinarians working in food safety and veterinary public health ([UEVH](#))

REF.

- WOAHP PVS tool <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2021/03/2019-pvs-tool-final.pdf>
- FVE paper on the role of the official veterinarian: <https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/051-Role-of-the-OV-adding-value-v1.3.pdf>
- FVE report on Official Veterinarians: Workplace, workload, support and challenges. February 2020

CC: Jane Clark - President EASVO; Slaven Grbic - President UEVH; Piotr Kwiecinski - President UEVP