Last week your WVA Council met in Brussels for a busy 3-day meeting. It was the 1 and half days in between the Council and Committee meetings that truly was a turning point and was the birth of a new era that will change the way WVA does business and will bring more value and impact to our Members, our Partners, and to Society.

More information will be forthcoming, but I can tell you that we spent a lot of time discussing the numerous important issues facing veterinary medicine. We can't give enough attention to all of them and have significant impact. So what criteria could we use to be sure we focused on the most important items (for now) – the ones that will make a difference to support our Members in making life better for people and animals around the world?

Our criteria for “What’s important now?” included these questions:

- Is it **feasible** – can it be done?
- Will it **attract** the interest of **international partners**?
- Will it provide enough **value** to retain and attract Members?
- Will it have a **positive global impact**?
- Will we be recognized and **visible** for our efforts?

After a lot of hard work by the WVA Councillors, Officers, and Secretariat, with a professional facilitator, we believe we have an inspirational set of priorities that will reshape our Vision and Mission statements for a more efficacious WVA to serve our Members and global public good! More to come...
WVA Council and Committees meetings

During the WVA Council meeting in Brussels, one day was spent on WVA Council business. The Council minutes from January were approved (click HERE for the report). One-half day was spent in two Committees work establishing our Finances and Policy development framework which will be meaningful for Members. In fact, the WVA was heard on two different occasions last week.

1) Last week McDonalds quoted our policy on antimicrobial resistance in its most recent strategy announcement: McDonald’s Global Vision for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Food Animals;

2) The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs heard our opinion, along with the World Medical Association, on the serious ramifications of scheduling ketamine internationally, which would have made it virtually unavailable as a safe anaesthetic for many parts of the world. That decision was postponed because of many groups voicing concern, including your World Veterinary Association (click HERE for the WVA press release). The world is watching and listening to us.

Communication Working Group

Finally, the Communications Working Group has been established with Dusan Palic (in the picture) as Chair, a member of the World Veterinary Aquatic Medicine Association (WVAMA). This is nicely timed with the Strategic Planning session so we can keep you better informed about all that is happening at the WVA!

A big THANK YOU goes to the associations that nominated candidates.

32nd World Veterinary Congress 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey

The 2015 World Veterinary Association Congress will be hosted by the Turkish Veterinary Medical Association from September 13-17 in Istanbul, Turkey, the Gateway to both East and West! The scientific program is almost finalized. (Link to the website). The city of Istanbul is a rare and beautiful gem for a meeting destination. The scientific program is shaping up nicely with world-renowned keynote speakers and tracks. There will be unique opportunities to network with veterinarians representing for many different areas of veterinary medicine from around the world.
New members of the World Veterinary Association

Recently, the below veterinary associations joined the WVA as Constituent members:

- Colegio de Veterinarios de Bolivia (Constituent Member)
- Asociación de Médicos Veterinarios del Perú (Constituent Member)
- Asociación Empresarial Veterinaria Española (Constituent Member)
- Association of Avian Veterinaries (Observer Member)

The WVA is happy to welcome these associations to the WVA family.

Thank you for your membership. We need your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message about our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don’t be left out of the process!