

Economics of Animal Health: A price worth paying?



Programme

Brussels

3 October 2012



Welcome to the 5th EU Veterinary Week Conference. This year we have chosen a topic of particular relevance to our times: the Economics of Animal Health. The action taken by the EU in this area has a significant impact on the daily lives of EU citizens: on their health and safety, on the availability of food, and the environment. In fact, animal health contributes to some of the biggest economic, environmental, and social challenges we face, a fact that is not always immediately obvious to citizens, politicians or industry.

The food sector is the largest single economic sector within the EU. The value of livestock farming in the EU alone is €149 billion per year, meaning that good animal health is critical in ensuring the viability and sustainability of the internal market; it is also a key factor for trade with countries outside the EU.

We all have a stake in ensuring the continued wellbeing of animals: The impact of an animal disease can have a significant impact on the health of us as humans, the health of the economy, and the world around us. In these difficult economic times supporting the economic security and success of animal keepers makes a crucial contribution to ensuring smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

I hope the conference will stimulate debate on what is a very important subject. Our intention is for your input to become an integral part of our reflection on the future of this work.



Paola Testori Coggi

Director-General, DG Health & Consumers

CONFERENCE AGENDA

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:50 **The importance of animal health and the EU-added value**

Ladislav Miko (Deputy Director-General, DG Health & Consumers)

09:50 – 10:10 **The role of animal health in our economy**

Dr Horst Schnellhardt MEP

10:10 – 10:30 **Animal health as a driver for development**

Alain Dehove, OIE

Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 **Investing in Animal Health in developing countries: Challenges and Options**

Julio Pinto, FAO

11:30 – 12:00 **Livestock: a matter of life and death**

Speaker TBC (Gates Foundation)



12:00 – 12:30 Economic benefits of improved animal health

Ludwig Theuvsen (Goettingen University)

Lunch break**14:00 – 15:30 Allocating resources for better animal health**

Per Olsen (COPA-COGECA)

Nigel Gibbens (Chief Veterinary Officer, UK)

Piet Thijsse (Vice-President, UECBV)

Bernard Van Goethem (Director, DG Health & Consumers)

Coffee break

16:00 – 16:30 Animal Health and Livestock Food Systems

Jonathan Rushton, (Royal Veterinary College)

16:30 – 17:00 Need for better global animal health governance

Dr Ago Partel (President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe)

17:00 – 17:30 Closing remarks

Commissioner John Dalli

18:00 – 20:00 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Berlaymont Piazza



