

2022 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 and updated in November 2015. Over these years, the partners have run and implemented several joint activities that included joint advocacy, scientific debates, raising awareness of all kind of the healthcare professionals and the general public on the topics stated in the joint declaration.

FVE was founded in 1975. Today, it represents 47 national veterinary organizations across 39 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 promote a healthy relationship between people, animals and the environment.

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 embrace 'One Health' as defined by United Nations¹ and integrate this approach in their advocacy and strategy. The partners aim, therefore, to expand interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of healthcare for humans, animals and the environment. The synergism allows improving a holistic understanding of scientific evidence and 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

¹ Joint Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO) and UNEP Statement : Tripartite and UNEP support OHHLEP's definition of "One Health" - [JTFOWU.pdf \(unep.org\)](#)

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 healthier people.

Examples of global 'One Health' problems that requires multisectoral and intersectoral action is antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases. The World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations have raised awareness of these areas, where the need for taking joint actions to combat current and future challenges are particularly highlighted^{2,3,4,5}. This is in line with the call made by the World Medical Association (WMA) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA) for a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to address risks that emerge at the animal-human-ecosystems interface^{6,7}.

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 and the environmental impact by improving medical education and clinical care, accelerating biomedical research discoveries, enhancing public health efficacy, and expeditiously expanding the scientific knowledge base.
- Following the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak and the challenges that all health professionals faced during this pandemic, the partners recognise that One Health approach provides opportunities for better planning, preparedness and crisis management by sharing of knowledge and expertise and enhancing intersectoral collaboration.
- The partners recognise that zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance are 'One Health' issues and believe both European doctors and veterinarians should continue an active role as a spearhead in preventing zoonotic threats and containing antimicrobial resistance.
- The partners recognise the need for continuing taking action in order to preserve existing antimicrobials' efficacy, in order to ensure adequate future treatment for both humans and animals and aim to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.

² Multisectoral and intersectoral action for improved health and well-being for all: mapping of the WHO European Region (2018) - [multisectoral-report-h1720-eng.pdf \(who.int\)](#)

³ Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries (2019) - [EN_TripartiteZoonosesGuide_webversion.pdf \(oie.int\)](#)

⁴ OIE Seventh Strategic Plan for the period 2021–2025 (2021) - <https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/08/a-88sg-14.pdf>

⁵ The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance 2021–2025 (2021)- [The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025](#)

⁶ WVA/WMA GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ONE HEALTH. Drivers towards One Health “Strengthening collaboration between Physicians and Veterinarians” (2015) - <https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/015-GCOH-REPORT-MAY-2015.pdf>

⁷ 2nd WVA/WMA GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ONE HEALTH. Moving forward from One Health Concept to One Health Approach (2016) - <https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2GCOH-Japan-SUMMARY-2016.pdf>

- 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 digital technologies 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 and for the provision of healthcare services, 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.
- The partners recognise the global context of policies and will continue to work both on top-down activities, but also to bottom-up activities by advocating for more implementation of One Health approach anchored to sound scientific evidence.

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 continue to work together through enhanced intersectoral collaboration on all professional matters, such as the regulation of health professions and their education, the use of new technologies and telemedicine in medical and veterinary practice, the improvement of welfare and mental health of all health professionals, etc.
4. The partners will continue to work together on the up-take of prudent prescription practices and better healthcare throughout Europe both in the medical as in the veterinary practice. 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. Prevention and control of

antimicrobial resistance through strategies that promote prudent use of antimicrobials will be further promoted.

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 recognise that interprofessional education and training leads to reduced antimicrobial use and prescribing of narrower antibiotics based on national guidelines. 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 tools to substitute the need for use of antimicrobials where possible, but will additionally continue to urge for 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 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.

Utrecht, 1st September 2022

On behalf of CPME

Christiaan Keijzer
President

On behalf of FVE

Rens van Dobbenburgh
President