



Maaike van den Berg vision:

Since 2017 at the World Veterinary Association (WVA), I am Councillor for Europe. Together with Ólafur Oddgeirsson, we are representing European veterinarians within WVA. Both of us were recently re-elected for a second term. We thank European veterinarians for the trust put in us.

In WVA, I am also the Chair of the [Pharmaceutical Stewardship Working Group](#). Enclosed you can find a bit of background on myself and my vision for the global veterinary profession.

After graduation, I worked for 3 years as mixed, and 10 years as a dairy veterinarian. From 2012, I combined this with a Board position in the Royal Veterinary Association of the Netherlands (KNMVD). I also was a member of the national delegation of the Netherlands for FVE. Currently, I work at the Dutch ministry of Agricultural affairs, Nature and Food safety in the Hague, leading a project on the care and mortality of piglets, calves and goat kids.

I live in Friesland (northern part of the Netherlands) with Bas and three children. Recently, I contributed to the documentary-film "[Maaike the veterinarian](#)" (90 minutes), released in July 2019. A film portraying 8 farmers and their veterinarians, dealing with fast-changing regulations (antibiotic policy amongst others) in dairy farming.

What I consider most important about WVA, is that it unifies the veterinary profession worldwide, connects veterinarians with other health professionals and supports the veterinary profession in delivering its responsibilities. To be more concrete: we do this, for instance, by providing our members and our [partners](#) a global veterinary network, by the publication of [position statements](#), articles and press releases, by [collecting data](#) in service of our members and reaching out to the general public globally by celebrating the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society (World Veterinary Day Award, [Global Animal Welfare Awards](#)).

From food security in African countries to extreme breeding issues in companion animals in highly developed countries, from access to safe and effective veterinary pharmaceuticals to the developments around corporate veterinary medicines; from a global repository of available guidelines on antibiotic use to a position paper on donkey skin trade. Veterinary issues may differ between countries, but we all benefit from a strong position of the veterinarian. A veterinarian who is trusted recognised and valued by society. My wish is together with my fellow councillors to contribute to the visibility of WVA. Towards you, our members and subsequently your members. Secondly, I aim to work towards more participation of our members in WVA tasks and activities. We are in this association together!

As FVE, we are extremely proud of having Maaike van den Berg elected and we wish her the best leading the global veterinary profession.