

## **High level meeting 2014**

### **Animal Health Law's International Dimension**

#### **Welcome Message from Didier DELMOTTE, President of FESASS**

Dear Doctor MARABELLI,

Dear Doctors VALLAT and VAN GOETHEM,

Dear Chief Veterinary Officers,

Dear Colleagues.

I am proud and glad to welcome you for this debate dinner. Proud because our Federation is honored by the confidence of the Italian Presidency to organize this event, proud also because your attendance testifies how you believe in the interest of the discussion with a farmers' technical organization which represents, for some of you, national or regional partners. I am also glad because this evening gathers people ready to work positively all together on the same way for the same aim: the improvement of the animal health. So I want to thank warmly Doctor Marabelli to give us this opportunity to share this time together.

After the success of our first high level meeting, held on last November with the Lithuanian presidency it was important to follow on the same way. The proposal of regulation on animal health offers a lot of topics for this kind of meeting and some of them are very crucial for farmers. We decided easily with Doctor Marabelli and Doctor Facelli to focus our debate today on the international dimension of the Animal Health Law.

This topic is highly strategic but seems always neglected. As we want to improve the prevention or the efficiency of the fight against animal disease we are focused on the actions inside European Union and inside our farms. But we know all how it is important to remember that we are not alone in the world. When Chinese or American pigs are catching we have to be aware that there is an important risk for our pigs to have flu. It is the price of the globalization. We need an access to the worldwide market and we need a complete regulation to

maintain the confidence in the certification of traded animals. Thanks to the World Animal Health Organisation to provide us both information on the animal health situation in the world and the regulatory framework. Thanks also to the European Union and the members states for their common policy, developed for more than fifty years. It permitted to develop our European livestock production and its sanitary quality in very good condition. Thanks also to the farmers and their determination to fight together, collectively, the diseases.

To explore these different aspects, we propose you to focus our discussions on three main topics:

- Relations between the OIE international standards and the European regulations,
- The impact of EU legislation on health guarantees for imports,
- The link between the regulatory framework and the exporting capacities of European livestock.

For each one, a colleague from FESASS will introduce the discussion with a short presentation. He will give you the FESASS point of view that you can read also in the factsheets. After this introduction you are invited to react.

At the end of the debate we will ask to Bernard Van Goethem and Bernard VALLAT to give their synthesis of these discussions.

I wish to all of you a pleasant and helpful time.