WVA ONE HEALTH SUMMIT
With the high level support of the OIE, FAO and WHO Tripartite

Theme: Biosecurity

On 7th May 2018, the WVA with the high support of the OIE, FAO and WHO held the 5th One Health Summit focusing on the theme of “Biosecurity”. WVA Councilor for Europe, Dr Maaike van den Berg moderated the meeting and facilitated discussions with the participants.

After a short welcome speech by the WVA President, Dr Jeroen Dewulf gave a keynote lecture about *Biosecurity in animal production: from theory to practice and back*. He pointed out the different definitions of biosecurity (e.g. internal and external biosecurity) and how to quantify the relation between biosecurity measures and their effects. He continued by explaining the general principles of biosecurity to avoid direct and indirect contact, ranking of risks, size of farm etc.). He highlighted the difference between what is really important to enhance biosecurity and what could be perceived as being important but actually not. He concluded by emphasizing that increasing biosecurity is a joint venture, to be undertaken by all parties involved.

FAO representative, Dr Henk Jan Ormel, gave a presentation on *How FAO supports veterinarians to improve global biosecurity* and started by giving a broader definition of biosecurity: *A strategic and integrated approach that encompasses the policy and regulatory framework for analyzing and managing relevant threats to human, animal and plant life.* He continued by introducing the FAO mandate and overall goals to eliminate hunger, fight poverty and to increase good health. He concluded by speaking on Global biosecurity in a continuing changing world (e.g. growth population, climate change, urbanization, geopolitical changes, interconnections etc.) and underlined the need for an integrated approach, with different actors; “we (veterinarians) are not alone”.

OIE representative, Dr Christine Uhlenhaut presented the OIE perspectives on *Strengthening Global Biosecurity* introducing the work done by OIE on biosecurity highlighting the data collection and dissemination of information regarding the global animal health situation. She continued by mentioning the OIE guidelines for the investigation of suspicions of bio-threats and said that 80% of agents with potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic.
WHO representative, Dr Eric Bertherat presented the *WHO role on Health Security Interface* and also focused on bioterrorism differentiating *biosafety* (keeping the bad bugs away from people) from *biosecurity* (keeping people away from the bad bugs). Furthermore, he made clear that the border between natural outbreaks and non-natural outbreaks is not always very clear and can be blurred. He concluded by introducing the “Health Security Interface” which involves many different professional fields and organizations (e.g. Interpol, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, UN, FAO, OIE etc.).

Finally, WVA Councilor for Africa, Dr Gani Enahoro, gave a presentation on some *case studies from Nigeria*. He explained the current biosecurity plans and existing measures and the work done by the Nigerian Center of Disease Control. He explained the challenges the country faces keeping up with biosecurity and mentioned the difficulties with implementing good practices and specific rules. He clearly showed that biosecurity standards are not fool-proof everywhere giving two examples of the recent Avian Influenza and Ebola outbreaks in Nigeria. In conclusion, Dr Enahoro said that *measures exist but they are not always implemented and the country really learns how to deal with outbreak only when they faced them*.

After the presentations, a panel discussions with all the speakers took place responding to questions and comments from the participants. WVA Secretary General concluded the WVA 5th Summit by saying that there are many definitions of biosecurity but Prof. Dewulf’s generic definition was still very relevant. There is a need to see biosecurity as a tool and not as a goal by itself. Also, as veterinarians, we have an important role to play but we are not alone, we have to work with other health professionals, paraprofessionals and the global organizations to fight new threats like bioterrorism.

The 6th WVA One Health Summit with the high support of the FAO, OIE and WHO Tripartite will take place during the WVAC2019 in San Jose, Costa Rica.