

29th March 2006

To: All members of the Management Committee

Cc: The President

From: Paul Audenaerde

### **FEDFA met SANCO about field slaughtering.**

In connection with the discussion about the CWD surveillance of deer, Johan-Trygve Solheim (Norway), dr Paul Audenaerde (Belgium), dr John Fletcher (UK) and dr Rolf Eriksson (Sweden) representing FEDFA, were invited to explain the needs of deer farmers to be able to shoot their animals in the field, and how veterinarian live inspection would be practically possible. The veterinary advisory committee was already made aware of our needs in writing by Dr. John Fletcher.

Dr. Thomas Gold, EU administrator, started answering how EU decision-making is initiated by the EU administration, which builds up a technical proposal. Once ready, this goes to the Parliament. Political lobbying may intervene at this level. Implementing measures and additional arrangements may be added here. At this level the administration loses its impact. Changing an article or an annex becomes impossible.

It is to be expected that it will last at the least 2 EU Presidencies before the final proposal will leave the administration and go to the Parliament. The proposal should be ready by end 2007. Meetings need to be organized and one year of application and one year of inspection are needed to find out the problems in practice.

Dr. John Fletcher explained the impact of the presence of an inspecting veterinarian whilst shooting deer for slaughtering, regarding accuracy and safety. The cost of the veterinary expertises is not the main concern of deer farmers as long as this would be calculated per head, not per time unit.

Furthermore, the difference in possibilities of live inspection in farmed deer versus park deer and free game were discussed. The members of the advisory veterinary committee made the remark that hunters, being a powerful lobbying group, generally avoid much regulatory measures.