



Issue of the month

Winds of change II

The new decade was greeted by government leaders around the world with the announcement that the economic crisis was over. However, some leaders and commentators warned

about the fragility of the present recovery calling for a better coordinated approach on economic policies at EU level moving way from short-term financial "stimulants" to a more long-term policy framework supporting the sustainable competitiveness and innovation capacity of our industry.

It is therefore very encouraging to see that the Spanish EU Presidency has put competitiveness of our EU agro-food sector at the heart of its priority list. The particular focus on the impact of EU regulation for feed and food products is highly welcomed by FEFAC. The European feed industry fully adheres to the principle "safety first", as stated by Mr John Dalli, Commissioner-designate for Public Health, in his written reply to the European Parliament but also welcomes his offer to "push for better regulation in the highly regulated internal market for animals, seeds, food and feed in order to boost the European agro-industry and to stimulate innovation while respecting the health and interests of consumers and the environment".

Last year's crisis in the dairy sector but also in other segments of the livestock industry, which resulted from price shocks and falling demand due to the financial crisis, highlighted the need for further concerted action at EU level to promote the development of sustainable

agriculture by improving its competitiveness. Only a profitable livestock sector can enable farmers to tackle the challenges of climate change. The CAP and particularly Pillar I must stay and be further developed as the cornerstone of a reliable policy framework providing farmers and EU citizens with the necessary security to maintain food production in the EU at affordable prices while respecting its high environmental and food safety standards.

We believe that Mr Dacian Ciolos, Commissioner-designate for Agriculture, has laid out the right priorities to the EP for the next stage of the reform: maintaining and making sustainable agriculture throughout the EU, further market orientation for agricultural production combined with mechanisms to provide security to farmers in crisis situation and a strengthened rural development policy integrating climate change challenges. We strongly hope that the new co-decision powers conferred by the Lisbon Treaty to the EP in terms of CAP reform will again allow our decision-makers to reach the "heart and mind" of EU citizens to defend EU agriculture and food production as the best guarantee to ensure food security and to provide public goods via the reduction of carbon emissions. Mr Paolo de Castro, Chairman of the EP Agriculture Committee, precisely stated the positive role of agriculture for environment protection at the EU agro-feed chain parliamentary evening at the end of last year: "Without agriculture there will be no environment".

With our best wishes for 2010, hoping that the "winds of change" will continue to blow in the right direction.

The feed industry in action

The delivery of veterinary medicines to animals may be done in different ways, including administration through feed, a particularly effective route for preventive treatment with small size animals.

On request of the EU Commission and national authorities, FEFAC introduced in its European Feed Manufacturers' Guide (EFMC) further hygiene provisions for the manufacturing and delivery of medicated feed for food producing animals. The new section essentially deals with the role of veterinarians in the prescription and supervision of the manufacturing of medicated feed, as well as measures to minimise the carry-over of medicinal substances from medicated feed to non-target feed. This updated version of the EFMC received the final positive assessment of the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health at its meeting on 23-24 November 2009.

The new EFMC will not substitute national implementation rules for the manufacturing of medicated feed, but provides a sound and useful baseline in the perspective of further harmonisation of the rules for the manufacturing of medicated feed planned by the EU Commission for 2010-2011.

News of the Feed & Food Chain

More than 30 EU associations from the whole food & feed chain established a common Platform to develop a voluntary, non-exhaustive catalogue for feed materials responding to an initial request by the EP asking for more market transparency. The objective of the platform is to finalise and submit the new catalogue by February 2010 seeking the endorsement

by the Standing Committee (SCoFCAH) and its publication in the Official Journal of the EU before the entry into application of the new Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on marketing and use of feed on 1 September 2010. In parallel, FEFAC is currently drafting jointly with COPA-COGECA a voluntary Code of good labelling practice

for compound feed for food producing animals with the aim to provide clear guidance to operators on how to apply the new regulation assisting them in the interpretation of the voluntary labelling rules, the presentation of the mandatory labelling requirements and the proper use of compound feed claims.



Facts and Figures

The FEFAC statistical yearbook **Feed & Food 2008** now available

Our statistical yearbook 2008 contains tables and figures regarding the position of the compound feed industry in the EU economy, the production whether at EU, European or global level as well as data on the use of feed materials and key figures on the livestock sector.

It is available free of charge on our website www.fefac.eu.



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International news

IFIF and FAO will jointly host the 3rd International Feed Regulators meeting in Atlanta on 25-26 January 2010. More than 60 feed regulators and industry experts will discuss in three workshop sessions principles and objectives of a modern, risk-based feed regulatory framework. Panel speakers will also address border inspections for feed, undesirable substances

and authorisation systems for certain feedstuffs. The key objective is to foster more convergent feed regulatory systems around the world to improve feed & food security by reducing trade barriers while promoting the implementation and control of risk-based feed safety standards. The soon to be published FAO/IFIF Manual on Good Animal Feeding could become a further tool to facilitate stronger cooperation between feed regulatory bodies and the feed sector.

feed facts

On the feed agenda:

- 3rd International Feed Regulators meeting, 25-26 January 2010, Atlanta
- IIIrd IFIF Global Food & Feed Congress, 20-23 April 2010, Cancun
- XXVth FEFAC Congress, 9-12 June 2010, Hamburg



For more information, please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General or see our website.

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The website of the month

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The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation has published on its website a new version 1.1 of the European Feed Manufacturers' Guide (EFMG) further to the positive assessment by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health in accordance with Article 22 of the Feed Hygiene Regulation. This revised Guide includes a.o. two new annexes laying down specific requirements applying to medicated feed and providing additional guidance on the application of the HACCP principles.

