



## **Network News**

### **VSF Europa Update - June 2009**

[www.vsfe.org](http://www.vsfe.org)

#### **VSF Europa Board Meeting in Lyon**

The first VSF Europa Board Meeting of the year 2009 took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May in Lyon. It was attended by representatives of eight member organisations.

#### **Changes in Board Structure**

Johan de Ceuster (VSF Belgium) was elected new treasurer of VSF Europa. He replaces Patrick Ruppel (VSF Belgium). The Board of VSF Europa now consists of

- President: Alessandro Broglia, SIVTRO
- Treasurer: Johan de Ceuster, VSF Belgium
- Secretary: Katja Helbig, VSF Germany

#### **Declaration of Commitment**

At the Board Meeting, the discussion about the commitment of VSF Europa members was continued. Last year, members were asked to deliver a declaration of commitment with expectations from and participation to the network. Mariska Leeflang (DIO) presented the results of the member's declarations. Many members stated that the lack of commitment was mostly due to lack of time and the impression that VSF Europa does not function very well. For both of these reasons, VSF Europa is often not considered a priority for the member organisations. Expectations from VSF Europa included lobbying activities and advocacy and the joined attendance of international meetings. Additionally, the work of VSF Europa should be more focused and there should be more common activities.

#### **Vaccinating for Africa!**

In 2009, five members of VSF Europa organised a Vaccination Day, namely Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and France.

#### **Case Study Publication**

The VSF Europa Case Study Publication is almost ready for printing. It will be presented at the next General Assembly.

#### **New Development Education Project**

The concept note for a new Development Education Project (DEP) has been submitted to the EU, now the full project will be submitted. We hope to have an answer from the EU at the end of July. If the DEP will not be accepted by the EU, a compromise could be organising a big event once a year in the cooperating countries, on the International Day of Peasant Struggle (17<sup>th</sup> April).

### **Symposium and General Assembly**

The next meeting will be organised by SIVtro VSF Italia, and it will be held in Teramo (Italy), from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009, hosted by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale. The subject of the symposium will be food sovereignty. A detailed programme will follow.



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