



## ISVEE 13 NEWSLETTER no. 1

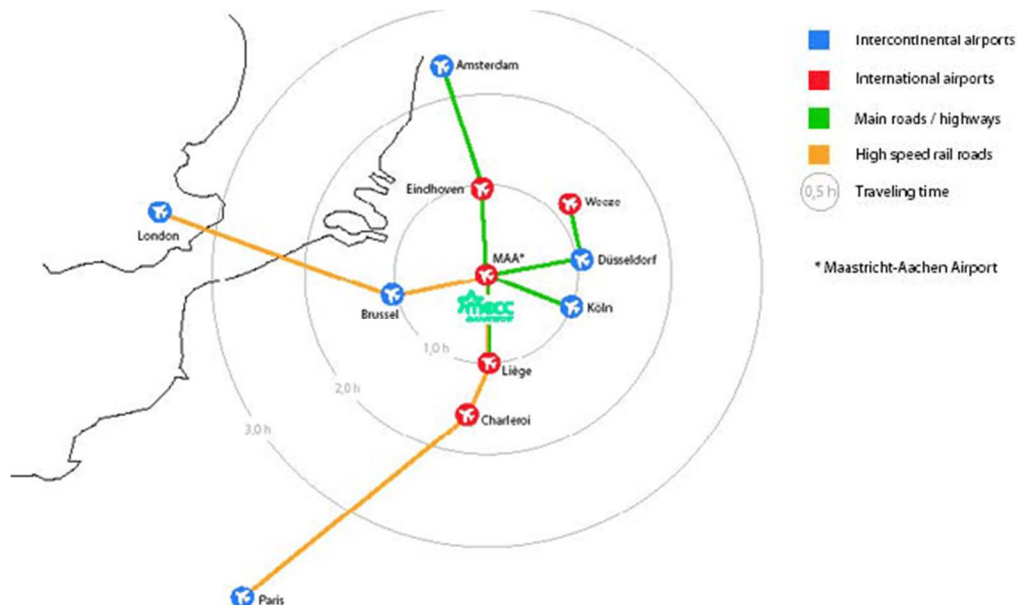
Dear ISVEE invitee,

The 13th Conference of the International Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE XIII) will be held from 20 - 24 August 2012 in the city of **Maastricht**, close to the border of the Netherlands and Belgium. Motto of the conference will be: **Building Bridges - Crossing Borders**. During this conference you will cross the borders to other scientific disciplines, focussing on the bridges that connect them with veterinary epidemiology and economics to create the multidisciplinary approach needed to answer many of today's research questions. If you participate in a pre- or post conference course you will cross the border between The Netherlands and Belgium as well to visit the beautiful city of **Ghent** where the courses will be held. Both Maastricht en Ghent have a long and colourful history enabling you to taste the rich culture of the lowlands situated in the centre of Europe.

This is the first Newsletter of the ISVEE 13 organizing committee, and in the coming 15 months towards the start of the conference we will inform and update you by publishing several of these Newsletters. Please visit our website ([www.isvee13.org](http://www.isvee13.org)) for detailed information on all aspects of the conference and to subscribe to our mailing list. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: [s.pauwels@pauwelspc.nl](mailto:s.pauwels@pauwelspc.nl).

### Travel to Maastricht and Ghent

Maastricht and Ghent are situated in the centre of Europe. For travellers within Europe, the cities are easily accessible by car, train or air. For travellers from outside Europe, there are three large airports in close proximity of the conference locations (Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, Brussels Airport and Dusseldorf Airport). Excellent train connections will bring you from these airports in approximately 2 hours to the conference locations. Please visit our website for more detailed information on travel to Maastricht and Ghent.



### Venue

MECC Maastricht is the most modern congress centre in the Netherlands. The congress centre consists of three multi-functional floors which can all be reached from the registration area. All floors are connected, allowing guests to see each other. MECC Maastricht has one auditorium at its disposal for 1,058 and one for 592 persons, which can be combined into one meeting room for 1,650 persons. The large number of meeting rooms, both auditoriums and the Expo Foyer are the perfect combination for a conference.

## Some new features at ISVEE 13

### ***Epidemiology in Veterinary Practice***

To enforce the bridge between veterinary epidemiology and economy and the reality of daily veterinary practice we plan to reserve one parallel session over two days (Thursday and Friday) on epidemiology in veterinary practice. This two day parallel session will be introduced on Thursday by a plenary lecture on the use of epidemiology and epidemiological tools in the field. For this specific line "epidemiology in veterinary practice" we aim at selecting presentations that are either illustrations of the application of epidemiology in daily veterinary practice or presentations of interesting results that are applicable in daily practice. Authors that have interesting data that may fit in this line are encouraged to submit these. The organizers will strongly advertise among practitioners associations to motivate them to attend the conference and enjoy the synergy between epidemiology and veterinary practice.

### ***Mini Symposia***

Within the conference we will organize several mini-symposia on specific and well described topics (e.g. avian influenza, Q-fever, antibiotic resistance, molecular tools, experimental epidemiology, etc. ....). For these mini-symposia we will select a leading presentation of 40 minutes followed by 6-8 short presentations (10 minutes) that all present original results related to the topic. The symposium will be concluded by a 60-90 minutes discussion moderated by the leading presenter. The aim of the leading presentation is to set the scene and to discuss the topic in a broader context in such a way that the following short presentations can largely skip the general introductions and focus primarily on the results. The leading presenter will then organize and lead a discussion involving all reported results. Besides our own selections based upon clusters of submitted abstracts, the scientific committee is also welcoming suggestions on topics that could be proposed for mini-symposia (and possible lead presenters).

These suggestions should be sent to: [jeroen.dewulf@ugent.be](mailto:jeroen.dewulf@ugent.be) **before the 1st of September 2011.**

## Pre- and post conference workshops

In conjunction with the ISVEE 13 Conference, the organizing committee wants to offer a limited number of high quality pre- and post-Conference Courses to ISVEE 13 participants. Pre- and post conference courses will take place at 'Het Pand', an old Dominican monastery located in the heart of the city of Ghent, Belgium (170 km from Maastricht, The Netherlands). It is now the cultural centre of the University of Ghent and also offers 7 small to medium-sized conference rooms, ideal to organize the pre- and post-Conference Courses.

We now welcome applications to organize pre- and post-Conference courses on any topic within the field of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics. For successful application, please follow the guidelines for Conference Course proposals that are available on the ISVEE13 website (section: "Workshops"). Other pre- and post-Conference Course information can be found there. If you have any inquiry, please contact the Conference Course organizer ([hans.laevens@kahosl.be](mailto:hans.laevens@kahosl.be)). We are looking forward to your proposals and contributions to the ISVEE 13 Conference Courses.

## Sponsorship

Past experience shows that many organizations and companies are keen to provide sponsorship to ISVEE to present themselves to the conference participants. As different organizations have different requirements, we can offer a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities. The sponsorship brochure is available at our website [www.isvee13.org](http://www.isvee13.org). If you have any questions or suggestions that would be helpful to your organization or company, please feel free to raise them with us directly (contact: [Dominiiek.Maes@UGent.be](mailto:Dominiiek.Maes@UGent.be)). We look forward to having your support and participation in an exciting and highly successful conference.

## Some important dates

**September 2011** - first call for abstracts and opening of the abstract submission system

**November 2011** - second call for abstracts

**15 February 2012** - Deadline for abstract submission

**15 April 2012** - response to the authors on abstract selection

**20 - 24 August 2012** - 13th ISVEE conference