

In between Congress of The ISAH



**Animal production in Europe:
The way forward in a changing world**

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Preface

By the president of the ISAH

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As president of the ISAH I have a great honor to take part in this in-between Congress here in Saint-Malo. With no doubts this congress is a very important event in our scientific field.

ISAH is a society with traditions. Our teachers and older colleagues, who are unfortunately no longer active in this world, created this society in the early seventies.

The very first ISAH congress took place in 1973 in Budapest. At the moment we are preparing to the XII ISAH Congress, which will be held in Warsaw in Poland in September 2005. The scientific goals of our society were very clearly described from the beginning. One of the fundamental tasks of the society is to assist in the formation of a more uniform understanding of animal hygiene as one of the branches of veterinary and animal sciences as well as to help to realize new scientific achievements for the benefit of animal production and veterinary public health ie food safety and environment preservation.

Scientists - hygienists performed their task of caring about animal health and needs very well. They proved that there is a special place for animal hygiene, as a scientific branch, in animal production sector. In the recent years the scale and range of hygienist activities became wider and it has changed a lot. The world is still changing in every field and area, of part, because of the common globalization. European as well as worldwide contacts are getting closer. We had to accept and learn many new definitions like: prevention, biosecurity, sustainable animal production, organic production, welfare, public health and environment. In my opinion we now understand all these definitions and we are able to use them in practice. This is how in the recent years we have discovered the meaning of the word "environment" again. We consider it much wider now. It is not only microclimate but we also investigate the influence of many environmental factors on the welfare of animals. We are also trying to establish the welfare of animals by changing or limiting the influence of some environmental factors. That is a very up-to-date subject worth discussing.

Accession of many European countries to EU means that national regulations have to be adjusted to European ones and it will result in great changes in animal and plant production and in the food chain as a whole. The direction agriculture is taking to will draw the new EU member States to Europe but probably will also generate new concerns. Especially intensification of plant and animal production, growing plants in monocultures, increasing the size of farms and concentration of animal production will undoubtedly create new problems to those countries in the field of public health, feed and feeding hygiene, animal production technologies and influence of animal production on environment. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

I would like to wish you success and effective deliberations.

Prof Andrzej Krynski