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**Wooldridge Memorial Lecture**  
**BVA Congress, Belfast**  
**28th September 2007**

*'Making Headway in  
Europe'*  
*Avril Doyle MEP*

## Member of European Parliament since 1999

- Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Committee on Fisheries (Vice-Chairman)
- Committee on Climate Change
- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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## European Union Governance

EU = 27 Member States

- Council
- European Parliament
- European Commission

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## Council of the European Union

- Government ministers from each member state meet in 9 different configurations or 'Councils'
- Chaired by country that holds presidency of the EU (rotated every 6 months)
- The European Council consists of the Heads of State of all Member States

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## European Parliament

- 732 members (MEP) elected every 5 years by the people of each member State
- Meet in Brussels & Strasbourg
- Shares legislative and budget power with European Council
- Exercises democratic supervision over European Commission and all EU institutions

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## European Commission

- College of 27 European Commissioners
- Power of legislative initiative
- 27 DG's or Directorate Generals
- DG Sanco deals with Human and Animal Health and Welfare, Food and feed safety

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## Codecision

- The **codecision procedure** is the main legislative procedure by which law can be adopted in the European Community.
- It was agreed at summit of prime ministers in Maastricht (Maastricht Treaty on European Union 1992), and extended and made more effective in Amsterdam in 1999 (Amsterdam Treaty).
- **Codecision** gives the same weight to decisions of the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union.
- Two thirds of European laws are adopted jointly by codecision.

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## Climate Change

- “The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change presents very serious global risks, and it demands an urgent global response.”
- “Climate change will affect the basic elements of life for people around the world – access to water, food production, health, and the environment.”

Sir Nicholas Stern, 'The Stern Review' on the economics of climate change, October 2006

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## EU Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013

- Adopted on 19th September 2007

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/animal\\_health\\_strategy\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/animal_health_strategy_en.pdf)

Or go to [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

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## Acronyms

- EU - European Union
- EP – European Parliament
- EMEA - European Medicines Evaluation Agency (London)
- EFSA - European Food Safety Authority (Parma)
- ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Stockholm)
- ENVI - European Parliament Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee
- AGRI – European Parliament Agriculture Committee

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## Acronyms continued...

- BVA – British Veterinary Association
- FVE – Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
- MRL - Maximum Residue Limit
- POM - Prescription Only Medicine
- SQP - Suitably Qualified Person
- BVD – Bovine Viral Diarrhoea
- FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease
- FEI – International Equestrian Federation
- EFTBA – European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Associations

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Thank you for your attention!

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