



On 21 July 2020, the European heads of States and governments reached an agreement on the future recovery plan of the European Union. This historic deal will help the EU to reawaken its economy and continue its pursuit of union and coherence.

The UEVP welcomes this deal and hopes that, in the light of the health crisis, a pertinent amount of this 1.82 trillion euros deal will be allocated to important topics for our profession such as the construction of a greener agricultural policy, the implementation of an ambitious European animal welfare policy or the fight against pandemic through a One health approach.

We will closely monitor the implementation and the precise allocation of this funding in the coming months and years.

Piotr KWIECIŃSKI, UEVP President

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PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest EU institutional news

European Council agrees on EU budget and recovery plan

After five consecutive days of negotiations in Brussels, the heads of state and government reached an agreement on 21 July 2020 concerning the future multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 and on the plan to revive the weakened European economy.

The validated global envelope of 1.82 trillion is made up of several elements:

- **750 billion for the recovery plan called “Next Generation EU”,** including:
 - 390 billion in subsidies (unlike the 500 billion proposed by the Commission)
 - 360 billion in loans (against the 250 billion proposed)

- **1,074 billion for the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027.**

Regarding the recovery plan, each country can receive a maximum amount. These amounts have not yet been definitively fixed. These amounts will make it possible to finance the recovery and resilience plans decided by the States, which will have to be approved by the European Commission and the Member States and will include several objectives, the achievement of which will be regularly verified. Member states will approve the stimulus packages by qualified majority and there will be no veto possibility.

Regarding the financing of the recovery plan (common debt), the European Council asks the European Commission to present proposals on new own resources. With this, it would be possible to avoid an increase in the contributions of member states to the budget. These new own resources could take the form of taxes on digital, carbon or non-recycled plastic.

Within the European Parliament, and more particularly within the Agriculture Commission, MEPs **Anne Sander** (EPP, France) and **Paolo De Castro** (S&D, Italy) have been appointed rapporteur for the recovery plan.

Priorities of the German Council Presidency

German Agriculture Minister **Julia Klöckner** presented the priorities of Germany's mandate to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) during the Agriculture Council of 20 July 2020.

The following dossiers will be a priority for the German Presidency:

- CAP reform - adoption of the transitional measures
- Farm to Fork strategy - organic action plan
- **Animal welfare**
- Food labelling
- European Maritime and fisheries fund
- 2021 fishing possibilities.

It is interesting to note that Julia Klöckner declared that "*a strong Europe requires a strong CAP*".

Positioning from various stakeholders on the Farm to Fork strategy

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

On 6 July 2020, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) published a [position paper](#) related to the European Commission's Farm to Fork strategy.

This document welcomes the strategy and its positive implications for the environment, animal welfare and the fight against food fraud.

Nevertheless, the FVE calls the European Union (EU) to:

- Accelerate the development of the One Health approach that states that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems are interconnected
- Continue its fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) without forgetting that antimicrobials are indispensable for the health and welfare of animals
- Think animal welfare as an integral part of each animal related policy
- Control competition in the agri-food sector in order to maintain fair prices for producers and a high level of sustainability in the supply chain.

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA)

On 8 July 2020 the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA) published a [statement](#) on the Farm to Fork strategy and more precisely on the implications of this strategy on the issue of AMR.

The platform notes that a 50% reduction in the use of antimicrobial sales by 2030 (on the basis of the 2017 level of sale) could be harmful for the health and well-being of animals as the use of antimicrobial has already significantly decreased in the last 10 years.

EPRUMA states that access to proper treatments for both animals and humans is important and will also participate in the fight against AMR.

Finally, EPRUMA wants the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to *“ensure access to the tools and measures necessary to support and incentivise better animal health management, through improved disease prevention and animal welfare, leading thus to a reduced need to use antibiotics on farms”*.

AnimalHealth Europe

On 7 July 2020, the European organisation of the animal medicine industry AnimalHealth Europe published a [document](#) containing 10 recommendations aiming at helping the EU to support the transition proposed in the Farm to Fork strategy.

These short recommendations gravitate around animal disease prevention and preparedness, farming model, food security, trade policies and the international exchange of information.

Declarations of Member of the European Parliament Tiemo Wölken

On 14 July 2020, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) **Tiemo Wölken** (S&D – Germany), deputy chair of the European Parliament’s [MEP interest group on AMR](#), gave an [interview](#) for the official magazine of the European Parliament (EP) on the subject of AMR.

He first underlines the importance of the AMR issue and states that the EP is willing to try to tackle it by working through the prism of the One Health approach.

Tiemo Wölken states that, even though the pharmaceutical industry, through the “[AMR Action Fund](#)” initiative, has pledged 1 billion dollars since 9 July 2020, this issue of antimicrobial resistance is due to failures in the market.

The MEP accuses the system to be designed more for financial profit than for health improvement.

Tiemo Wölken declares that the EP, and more precisely the MEP interest group on AMR, will push the European Commission to put forward mandatory actions related to the AMR issue. He then declares that he hopes to see something relevant from the Commission in the upcoming pharmaceutical strategy.

Latest news about COVID-19

Webinar COVID-19 & One Health

On 8 July 2020, the European Biomedical Policy Forum (FEAM) and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) organised a webinar on the One Health approach and COVID-19.

Various subjects were presented:

- Dr **Charles Price** from the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission first presented a [module](#) on the EU response to the pandemic.
- The Professor **Eleanor Riley** from the Institute of Immunology and Infection Research and the Ashworth Laboratories presented the [UK approach in the COVID-19 research](#).
- Dr **Maurizio Ferri**, Scientific Coordinator of the Italian Society of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (SIMeVeP) gave a [presentation](#) about crisis management of pandemics through cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Finally, the Professor **Eskild Petersen**, Co-chair of ESCMID Emerging Infections Task Force, EITaF presented a [module](#) entitled “The zoonosis from a human perspective”.

The [main points](#) that came out of the debates were related to:

- The fact that veterinarians should use the available knowledge inclusively and share more information in order to be of more help during pandemics.
- The idea that the relevant stakeholders should better communicate, collaborate and exchange best practices.
- The fact that more funding in R&D should go to prevention and control of zoonotic in animals and not only in humans.

The recording of the entire event can be found [here](#).

Latest news about animal disease

Scientific report from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the overview from February to May 2020 of avian influenza.

On 25 June 2020, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a 47 pages long [scientific report](#) providing a general overview of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and some low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) virus outbreaks that were detected in poultry, captive and wild birds as well as some human cases (in China) due to avian influenza (AI) virus. The analysed cases were reported in and outside the European Union (EU) between 16 February and 15 May 2020.

This report concluded that no HPAI viruses related human infections were detected and that the risk of zoonotic transmission to the general public in Europe is considered to be very low.

Joint initiative from the OIE and the FAO for global control of African swine fever

On 20 July 2020, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a [joint initiative](#) for the Global Control of African swine fever (ASF).

Dr **Matthew Stone**, OIE Deputy Director General for International Standards and Science recalls that 51 countries are now affected by ASF and that the disease is still spreading.

The Initiative for the Global Control of ASF aims to *“strengthen national Veterinary Services ability to manage risks through the development and implementation of ASF national control programmes, with public and private sectors working in partnership”*.

Latest news about the Animal Health Regulation

European Commission launches a public consultation on notification procedure for animal diseases

On 23 July 2020, the European Commission opened a [consultation](#) period on its proposal for a regulation (and its annex) aimed at defining the conditions for notification of animal diseases as well as the list of diseases concerned.

This stakeholder consultation is part of the work of the European Commission concerning the entry into force of the [Animal Health Regulation](#) adopted in 2016 and due to apply from the 21 of April 2021.

The consultation is open until 20 August 2020.

It is interesting to note that the application date of the future animal health regulation was discussed during a meeting of the agricultural committee of the European Parliament (EP). Various members of the committee such as **Michaela ŠOJDOVÁ** (EPP, Czech Republic) or **Jeremy DECERLE** (RE, France) asked for a report of the application date, but the Commission’s representative **Francisco Reviriego Gordejo** from the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety declared that there were no good reasons justifying such a report.

Update on the EMA activities

Decisions of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP)

The Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) held a [meeting](#) from 14 to 16 July 2020.

The Committee adopted by consensus 3 positive opinions for three grouped type II variations applications for Aivlosin, Posatex and UpCard concerning the implementation of quality-related changes.

The Committee adopted 2 scientific advice reports for initial advice on quality, safety and efficacy issues for a new veterinary medicinal product for musculoskeletal disorder indication in dogs and for a follow-up advice on efficacy issues for a product for cats.

The CVMP adopted a scientific problem analysis and recommendations to ensure a safe and efficient oral administration of veterinary medicinal products via routes other than medicated feed (Article 106(6) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/6](#)).

The CVMP also adopted a draft concept paper on criteria for the application of Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (EMA/CVMP/340959/2020) for a two-month period of public consultation.

The two documents will be published on the EMA's website.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest updates on animal welfare at EU level

Publications of guidelines concerning online pet trade

On 15 June 2020, the pet subgroup on dog trade of the EU Animal Welfare Platform published two sets of guidelines concerning the online trade of pets.

The first set of [guidelines](#) (+[infographic](#)) aims to inform online pet sales platform on how to do it responsibly.

The main points that are underlined in these guidelines are:

- That **minimum information about the dog should figure on the site**. These data can be a recent photo, the identification information (breed, birth, sex), the microchip number, health information, buyers' rights, and some information about the history and the character of the dog.
- That **minimum information about the breeder or the seller should figure on the site**. These data can be the contact details of the seller or the breeder, its registration number and its status.

The second set of [guidelines](#) (+[infographic](#)) targets buyers and informs them on what to check before buying a dog

The main points that are underlined in these guidelines are:

- To be attentive to **where (online and offline) and how** the dog is sold
- To be attentive to the **dog health and identification information**
- Not to be afraid to **ask all sorts of questions** about the dog and your rights as a buyer
- Not to hesitate to **contact relevant authorities if there is a fraud suspicion** of any kind.

Report update - Analysis of national legislation related to the keeping and sale of exotic pets in Europe

The NGO Eurogroup for Animals has updated its 2013 [report](#) on the keeping and sale of exotic pet in Europe.

As a reminder, this report *“analyses the national legislations regarding the keeping and sale of exotic pets in the Member States, as well as the UK, Switzerland and Norway”*.

This document affirms that large differences are still present between the different countries and that this question leads to *“enforcement issues and disruptions of the European internal market”*.

On this regard, Eurogroup for Animals is calling the European Union (EU) to create an EU-wide positive list clearly stating which animal species can be kept and sold as pets.

End of live animal transport outside of the EU for 3 German länders

On 24 July 2020, the German länder of **Brandenburg** suspended the live transport of animals outside of the European Union (EU).

On 28 July 2020, it was the **Rhénanie-Palatinat** Länder's turn to ban this practice. The Länder's environmental minister **Ulrike Höfken** declared that "*Our decree is a signal to the federal government and the EU to tell them that we need regulation at European level to ensure that no transport takes place in violation of animal welfare*",

It is interesting to note that, sooner in July, The **North Rhine-Westphalian** Ministry of Agriculture had banned long-distance cattle transport to so-called third countries.

Public consultation – Draft implementing regulation on feed additives

On 31 July 2020, the European Commission opened a [public consultation](#) for its roadmap for amending a draft implementing regulation concerning applications for authorisation, scientific evaluation and authorisation of feed additives (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 429/2008).

The main idea behind this consultation is to adapt the provisions rules from the [Regulation](#) on increased transparency and sustainability of scientific assessments of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

The consultation is open until 28 August 2020 and the adoption of the draft implementing regulation is scheduled for the third quarter of 2020.

FEDIAF 2019 facts & figures report on the pet population in Europe

On 26 June 2020, the **European Pet Food Federation (FEDIAF)** released its [annual overview](#) of Europe's pet population and pet market.

The document focuses on Europe's main pets. These are:

- Cats – total: 106.424.000
- Dogs – total: 87.510.000
- Bird – total: 51.868.000
- Small mammals – total: 28.565.000
- Aquaria: - total: 15.540.000
- Reptile: - total: 9.424.500

The report also underlines that

- 85 million European households own a pet (38%)
- 8.5 billion tonnes of pet food were sold in Europe in 2019.

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