



This month marks the start of the preparation of the delegated and implementing acts by the DG SANTE of the European Commission on a key file for our profession: the veterinary medicines package. More precisely, the first batch of mandates to EU Agencies (EMA, EFSA, ECDC) was sent by the European Commission regarding criteria and requirements over antimicrobials reserved for humans and antimicrobials products used in animals. We will keep following closely this implementation process in the upcoming months. Moreover, we would also take the opportunity of the celebration of the World Animal Vaccination Day on 20 April 2019 to emphasise the fact that vaccination is crucial for animal and human health.

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PRIORITY ISSUES

The European Commission opens the consultation on its delegated act on registration and identification of terrestrial animals

The European Commission published on 24 April 2019 the [draft of the delegated Regulation](#) (with its [annex](#)) regarding rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and the traceability of certain kept animals. The delegated act comes from the [Regulation 2016/429](#) also named “Animal Health Law”. It lays down provisions regarding **registration and identification of terrestrial animals** (bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, dogs, cats, ferrets etc.) and **requirements for operators keeping and transporting** these animals.

Regarding the companion animals (dogs, cats and ferrets), even though the Animal Health Law suggests that more provisions towards **identification and interoperability of national electronic databases** could be presented, the draft delegated act considers that current rules, laid down in [Directive 92/65/EEC](#) have proven their efficacy, and it is not necessary to present new provisions.

A [public consultation](#) has been opened for the draft delegated act, until **22nd May**. Stakeholders are invited to express their views towards the draft act. After its adoption by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Council will have two months to oppose to its adoption.

The European Commission starts the preparatory work for the implementation of veterinary medicines package

Earlier in April, DG SANTE of the European Commission sent the first batch of mandates to EU Agencies (EMA, EFSA, ECDC) in order to prepare the delegated and implementing acts of the **veterinary medicines package**. This secondary law will mainly concern details over **criteria and requirements over antimicrobials reserved for humans and antimicrobials products used in animals**. EU agencies are asked to come up with **advices** and methodology to guide the work of the European Commission. The list of the first mandates published by the Commission are available [here](#).

NGOs react to the vote in AGRI committee on CAP reform

With the vote of the AGRI report on the post-2020 CAP reform on 1st April 2019, Eurogroup for animals reacted to the animal welfare provisions that were endorsed by MEPs. Since animal welfare was first brought into the CAP in 2003, spending on it has been a **marginal fixture** ever since. The NGO concludes that the report brings *“very small steps towards meeting the objective to bring EU agriculture in line with societal demand in regard to the CAP’s consideration for animals.”* MEPs adopted two provisions beneficial for animals, an **amendment enabling good animal welfare practises** in the food chain and **eco-schemes incentive programme** that will now encourage farmers who want to receive CAP subsidies to **go beyond legal standards** when it comes to the treatment of animals in their farms.

Eurogroup for Animals regrets that the AGRI committee did not endorse recommendations from the [ENVI opinion](#), such as the **inclusion of all the poultry directives and the regulation on slaughter for animals** killed on farms into the mechanism of “conditionality”.

The CAP reform package will now go through the newly-elected Parliament in plenary sitting, after the 23-26 May European elections. The Conference of Presidents (EP President and leaders of political groups) will decide whether the texts will be forwarded directly to the full House or sent back to the new AGRI committee.

Organisations celebrated the World Animal Vaccination Day

Veterinarians organisations (EAPHM, ECAAH, FEAP, FECAVA, FEEVA, FVE and WAVMA) celebrated **World Animal Vaccination Day on 20 April 2019**. The joint campaign focused on how critical vaccination is towards animal and human health: Vaccines against more than **100 animal diseases** are available to this day, which saved millions of lives of people and animals. They also contribute to the **need to use less antibiotics** and reduce the exposure to zoonotic diseases.

FVE, FECAVA and AnimalhealthEurope issued a joint press release on animal vaccination

On 18 April 2019, three organisations FVE, FECAVA and AnimalhealthEurope raised concerns through a [joint press release](#) about **hesitancy over animal vaccination, considered as a deadly mistake**. In the framework of World Animal Vaccination Day on 20 April 2019, the organisations are warning about the **lower rate of vaccination**, falling dangerously over the coverage rate recommended to ensure “herd immunity” (in the UK, vaccination rates have seen a 7% drop for both dogs and cats between 2011 and 2017). This means that pets could once again be **at risk from painful and deadly illnesses**. FVE, FECAVA and AnimalhealthEurope ask pet owners to **not neglect vaccination programs** for their pets and to **regularly visit their veterinarian** to make sure their animal is up-to-date with all their vaccinations.

EPRUMA publishes new best practice guidance for the use of vaccines in animals

The European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA) has launched earlier this month a [best-practice framework](#) for the use of vaccines in animals. The document states that veterinary vaccination plays a **key role in protecting animal and public health**, as an integral part of overall One Health plans against infectious diseases. Recommendations to users are made to **ensure a proper vaccination programme** for the animal’s needs and a correct vaccination of animals. It is also recommended to **keep detailed records of vaccination**, preferably in digital form, and always **monitor animals after vaccination**.

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 15-16 April 2019. It adopted by consensus positive opinions for type II variation application for **Suvaxyn PRRS MLV, Broadline, Procilis PCV M Hyo, Leucogen, LEucofeligen FeLV-RCP** and **Nobivac LeuFel**. The CVMP adopted by consensus a positive opinion for the renewal of the existing marketing authorisation for **Osurnia** (indefinite). The Committee also adopted by consensus a positive opinion recommending the inclusion of **bambermycin** (for rabbits) in the list of allowed substances of [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 37/2010](#).

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal disease at EU level

- **African Swine Fever (ASF):** a [report](#) from the European Commission published on 30 April 2019 spotted flaws in measures taken by Romania to fight ASF outbreaks, especially during animal movements. The audit was performed in October 2018, after the quick spread of the disease in the country. Even though **national authorities have taken effective measures** to investigate on suspected cases and control new outbreaks, the issue lies in the **great number of non-commercial pig farms**, whose alive pigs and animal products are circulating on the national market and are **not subject to the same rules** as commercial farms. The lack of traceability and biosafety measures towards domestic farms represents a threat to the national porcine production. National authorities are invited to **strictly apply requirements on identification of pigs and biosafety measures in high-risk areas**.

Latest updates on animal welfare at EU level

The Italian member of Eurogroup for Animals launched a campaign on pigs' welfare

Essere Animali, an Italian organisation for animal welfare released an [investigation](#) on **pigs welfare in Italian factory farms**, along with a [campaign](#) named *#SOSpigs*. The investigation shows that breeding sows are confined in small cages, and piglets suffer from mutilations– without anaesthesia or painkillers – such as tail docking and surgical castration. Even though **some of these operations (such as systematic tail docking) are illegal**, the organisation states they are still practiced on **98% of all pigs bred on Italian farms**. With the *#SOSpigs* campaign, *Essere Animali* and its European network *Eurogroup for Animals* call on **large scale supermarkets to take a stand to end these practices**.

Sweden enforces a new Animal Welfare Law

On 1st April 2019, the new **Animal Welfare Law** came into force in Sweden. It was adopted by the Swedish parliament last summer and replaces the former law from 1988. From now on, it will be **illegal to abandon animals without legal consequences**. **Circuses will no longer be allowed to use elephants and sea lions** for entertainment purposes. Healthcare and social services personnel can now **report cases of animal abuses** in Swedish households to the relevant authorities. However, *Djurens Rätt*, a Swedish animal protection organisation raised concerns about the proper enforcement of the law, especially regarding **animals kept in cages**: despite the fact that the law introduces an **act allowing animals to express their natural behaviour**, around one million minks farmed for fur are killed every year in Sweden after spending their entire lives in confined spaces.

NGOs report their activities for World Day for Animals in Laboratories 2019

On 24 April 2019, in the framework of the **40th World Day for Animals in Laboratories**, several animal protection organisations are raising awareness of animal experimentation and calling for concrete scientific policies that can **promote a move towards scientific research that doesn't use animals**. Currently, more than **13 million animals** are used per year in scientific procedures in the EU. These organisations recall that **alternative methods** already exist or are being explored. **Organoids, bio-artificial organs, imaging, and artificial intelligence** can improve the

understanding of molecular, cellular and physiologic mechanisms: human-relevant data can be used to effectively study clinical, epidemiological, pathological or healthy situations.

FVE publishes its manifesto for the European elections 2019

In the framework of the European elections on 23-26 May, FVE developed a [manifesto](#) with the five main topics the newly-elected Parliament should take under consideration. **One Health & sustainability, public health & food safety, antimicrobial resistance, education & research** as well as **access to medicines & services** should be the main issues and challenges the new MEPs should tackle during this term.

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