



As the composition of the commissions of the newly elected European Parliament became public a few days ago, UEVP would like to emphasize the necessity to reinforce the efforts in the fight against antibiotic resistance at European level. This is one of the key dossiers we will keep working on in the upcoming five years. We were also very glad to see that the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU defined animal welfare as one of its priorities for the 6 months to come. We welcome this decision and we will closely follow the initiatives in this area.

Piotr KWIECIŃSKI, UEVP President

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PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest news on antimicrobial resistance at EU level

The Council of the EU and the European Commission prepare the next steps in the fight against AMR

The [Council conclusions](#) on the next steps to make the EU a region of best practice in combatting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) were published in the Official Journal of the EU on 25 June 2019. Member States acknowledged that the use of antimicrobials is still too high in the EU, and it is a global public concern for both human and animal health.

They welcome the many international initiatives which aimed at combatting AMR developed by the World Health Organisation for example. Therefore, the Council calls Member States and the European Commission to **strengthen their effort to fight antimicrobial resistance in various ways** (collection of data, monitoring of antimicrobials sales, preventive measures to reduce the use of antimicrobials etc.).

The European Commission also presented an [update](#) of their **progress report for the 2017 EU AMR action plan**. The infographic shows the **concrete activities already implemented and the ones to come**. Some of them concern an increasing surveillance and reporting of AMR and antimicrobial use, others are directed towards a better implementation of EU rules, or boosting research, development and innovation on AMR.

EFSA published a report that could help research against AMR

The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) published a [report](#) on 5 June 2019 about the **technical specifications for an harmonised monitoring of AMR**. The authors state that the use of **whole genome sequencing can improve the way antimicrobial resistance is monitored** in food and animals. Ahead of the revised legislation on AMR monitoring that is due to come into force in 2021, EFSA suggests that these methods could gradually be introduced into Member State monitoring activities. This not only has the potential to predict AMR more efficiently but also generates a large amount of data which can be used for other epidemiological studies and analysis.

Finally, the report gives **recommendations on sample sizes** and suggests monitoring of resistance to antibiotics that have become relevant for public health and that are not currently monitored. This will allow **better detection of possible new mechanisms of resistance**.

The Netherlands will contribute to the new international fund against AMR

The Agriculture Minister of the Netherlands, **Carola Schouten**, announced the Dutch government intention to give a contribution up to **\$5 million to the new international cooperative fund against antimicrobial resistance**. Controlled by several international organisations (the UN, WHO, OIE and FAO), the fund will last for five years at first, until 2024. Its goal is mainly to support developing countries to elaborate strategies and prevent the growing risks of AMR in those regions, but also at global level.

Animal welfare should be a priority for the next five years thanks to European elections and the renewal of the European Commission

In the framework of the [fifth meeting](#) on the EU Platform on Animal Welfare in Brussels on 17 June 2019, the Commissioner for Health and food safety, **Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS**, made a speech as a message for the next European Commission. He advises to **keep animal welfare high on the next Commission's agenda**, as a proper Sustainable Development Goal, and more resources will be needed to match such ambition. The meeting was also the occasion for Commission officials to announce that they are likely to launch infringement procedures against a group of Member States that are still non-compliant with the [Pig Directive](#).

The arrival of new MEPs thanks to the 2019 European elections could also favor the animal welfare cause in the EU Agenda: some of them were received at the Eurogroup for Animals' annual event in Brussels on 19 June 2019. All the MEPs agreed that it will be very important for **the new President of the European Commission to make a strong commitment to animal welfare**: new and improved legislative measures are needed to ensure better animal welfare across the EU.

The European Commission opens two consultations for delegated acts of the Animal Health Law

During the month of June 2019, two consultations were opened by the European Commission on two delegated acts that come from the Animal Health Law ([Regulation 2016/429](#)):

- The [draft delegated regulation](#) on the **rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases** (+ [annex](#)) lays down conditions for using veterinary medicines to prevent or control certain diseases. It also contains details on measures of be taken where an outbreak is suspected, including in wildlife. The [consultation](#) period is open until **19 July**.
- The [draft delegated regulation](#) (+ [annex](#)) on **animal health requirements for the movement of terrestrial animals within the Union** updates some existing rules on the transport of terrestrial animals within the EU to adapt them to the new legal framework. The consultation period is open until **23 July 2019**.

The delegated act on animal identification is published by the European Commission

On 28 June 2019, the European Commission published the [delegated regulation](#) (+ [annex](#)) on the registration and approval of establishments keeping terrestrial animals and the identification and registration of terrestrial animals. As a reminder, this delegated act supplements the [Regulation 2016/429](#) also named "Animal Health Law" on provisions regarding **registration and identification of animals, including dogs, cats, and ferrets** (see the UEVP May newsletter).

The European Parliament and the Council of the EU have now **two months** to eventually raise objections to the delegated regulation. Otherwise, it will be published in the Official Journal.

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 18-20 June 2019, and elected **Gerrit Johan Schefferlie** from the Netherlands as its Vice-Chair for a three-year mandate. It adopted by

consensus positive opinions for type II variation applications for **Advocate, Meloxidyl, Suprelorin, Suvaxyn Circo, Suvaxyn** and **Circo+MH RTU**. It also adopted by consensus a positive opinion for a type IB variation application for **Inflacam** and **Rheumocam**.

The Committee concluded the referral procedure for veterinary medicinal products containing **tylosin** presented as solutions for injection for intramuscular use in sheep. It agreed that the maximum injection volume per site and the withdrawal periods for sheep meat and offal and milk should be amended to provide assurance for consumer safety. The CVMP adopted by consensus an opinion concluding that the marketing authorisations for the concerned products should be varied in order to amend the product information accordingly.

The Committee adopted a scientific advice on **preliminary risk profiling for new antimicrobials**. This document was developed to answer a request from the European Commission on the impact on public health and animal health of the use of antibiotics in animals. The scientific advice will be published on the Agency's website.

Highlights of the Management Board Meeting of June 2019

The Management Board held a [meeting](#) on 12-13 June 2019, where participants adopted the EMA annual activity report for 2018. The Board heard an update on EMA's first three months in its temporary building in Amsterdam Sloterdijk and the preparations for the Agency's move to its final premises in the Zuidas area of Amsterdam. Construction of the new building is expected to be completed by November 2019 and EMA staff are expected to move in as of 6 January 2020. Due to resource constraints, most activities that were temporarily suspended at the end of 2018 as part of the Agency's business continuity planning remain on hold. A further review by the Board will take place in October 2019. Suspended activities include for example guideline development and most working party meetings. The Agency also faces a **substantial workload thanks to various new pieces of legislation** such as the EU data protection regulation and the veterinary legislation, **for which no additional resources have been made available**.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal disease at EU level

- **African Swine Fever (ASF):** two Commission implementing decisions were published in the Official Journal of the EU at the beginning of June. [One](#) concerns the addition of regions which are affected by the ASF in Poland, as several outbreaks were identified. [The other decision](#) approves the plan for the eradication of ASF in feral pigs in the affected areas in Belgium. National and authorities shall now bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions required by the implementation of the eradication plan.

Latest updates on animal welfare at EU level

The European Citizens' Initiative to ban cage farming reached one million signatures

At the end of May 2019, Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) announced that the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) named [#EndTheCageAge](#) reached the **one-million-signatures milestone** in order to be considered by the European Commission. Launched in September 2018, the ECI aims to end the use of cages for farm animals across the continent. But the organisers, CIWF and more than 170 other animal welfare and environmental organisations across the EU are calling for more signatures, as the ECI will undergo a checking procedure where the European Commission verifies that each signature is from a real person. Organisers estimates that they need to collect **1.3 million signatures** until the end of August in order to make the campaign a success.

Several organisations stand up to stop live transport of animals

In the framework of the "[Stop Live Transport International Day of Awareness](#)" on 14 June 2019, 150 actions were organised throughout 33 countries around the world by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF). A group also gathered in front of the European Parliament in Brussels, joined by some MEPs, to raise awareness about live transport and reduce possible harm made towards animals. Specifically, organisers support **an 8-hour journey limit within the EU and a ban on live exports from the European Union to third countries**.

Publication of a report on exotic pet trade in the European Union

The NGO Animal Advocacy and Protection (AAP) published in June 2019 a [report](#) on the state of national legislation in Europe towards exotic pets. They estimate that **200 million pets in Europe belong to exotic, non-domesticated species** and ring the alarm about the lack of harmonized regulations which could "endanger animal welfare, native biodiversity and human health and safety." Even species with extraordinarily complex care needs, such as primates, are allowed in many EU Member States as companion animals. As a comparison, in France and Germany, around 98% of all 5488 mammal species are allowed as pets, whereas the Benelux countries only permit a very small amount. Therefore, AAP is calling for a **positive list of species allowed as pets throughout the EU**, as it would help increase transparency and consumer information.

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