EU NEWS

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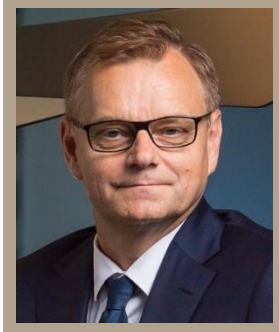
UEVP

Union Européenne des Vétérinaires Praticiens – AISBL
Union of European Veterinary Practitioners – AISBL



During this summer break, I would like to encourage the European institutions, and particularly the European Parliament to support the Commission's draft delegated regulation on "Criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans" during the upcoming vote scheduled for the September plenary sitting.

UEVP members should continue to be active at national level to support the delegated act as a complete and science-based approach to AMR.

On a similar topic, I would like to emphasize the position of the European Parliament on AMR as part of the "Farm to Fork" strategy, including the importance of a "One health" approach.

Piotr KWIECIŃSKI, UEVP President

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PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest EU institutional news

Latest developments on the Farm to Fork strategy

The compromise amendments on the European Parliament's draft own-initiative report on the Farm to Fork strategy have been published.

The compromise amendments of the text include provisions on antimicrobial resistance and especially it:

- underlines "*the importance of a One Health approach*";
- highlights "*the need to further reduce the use of antibiotics*";
- *"welcomes the European Commission's plan to reduce the overall sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% in 2030"*and *"underlines out that progress already made on Member State level must be taken into account"*;
- *"underlines that antimicrobials, other than human reserve antibiotics, must remain available for essential use, in order to ensure that animal health and welfare is protected at all times".*

The two jointly responsible parliamentary committees for the draft report – the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) – are expected to adopt these compromise amendments on 9 September 2021. Then, the European Parliament should also vote on the text adopted by these two committees in plenary session.

Once voted in plenary, the report will represent the European Parliament's position on the Farm to Fork strategy but will not be legally binding. Only legislation subsequently proposed and voted on will be binding.

Latest developments on the CAP reform

The three texts of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform on which the European institutions reached an agreement at the end of June 2021 were published on 20 July. This is the "consolidated" version of the political agreement reached, namely the legal "translation" of this agreement:

- Link to the « horizontal » regulation (on the financing of the CAP): according to this regulation, "*conditionality is an important element of the CAP, which ensures that payments promote a high degree of sustainability and ensure a level playing field for farmers within and between Member States, in particular with regard to its social, environmental and climate elements but also concerning public health and animal welfare*".
- Link to the regulation on the national strategic plans: it underlines, among other elements that "*actions to promote higher levels of animal welfare and initiatives to combat antimicrobial resistance should be stimulated*". This regulation also provides that EU Member States shall support "*active farmers or groups of active farmers who make commitments to observe agricultural practices beneficial for the climate, the environment, animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistance"* under "*eco-schemes*".
- Link to the regulation on common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

At the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 23 July 2021, a large majority of EU Member States approved the three CAP texts.

Following the validation of the three texts on the CAP by the Council, a legal-linguistic revision will be carried out, before the European Parliament validates these three texts. The Parliament's vote on these texts could take place in October or November 2021.

Latest news on antibiotics at EU level

Upcoming vote on the resolution objecting to the European Commission's delegated act defining the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans

During the European Parliament's plenary session of September 2021 – between 13 and 16 of September – the parliamentary resolution objecting to the European Commission's delegated act (and its annex) defining the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans should be voted on.

As a reminder, this resolution has been adopted on 13 July 2021 in the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee).

The vote of this resolution in plenary session of the European Parliament will determine its final adoption.

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA), together with other organisations such as Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) published a joint position paper on this topic in order to support the European Commission's delegated act and call for a vote against the resolution.

The European Commission publishes its progress report on the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance

Following the adoption of the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in June 2017, the European Commission recently published its progress report on the implementation of this Action Plan.

The key objectives of the European One Health Action Plan against AMR are built on three main pillars, namely making the EU a best practice region; boosting research, development and innovation as well as shaping the global agenda.

The progress report shows the initiatives taken at EU level as part of this Action Plan, including:

- The finalization in February 2021 of the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (JAMRAI);
- The online reconvening of the EU AMR One-Health Network on March 2021;
- The establishment of tertiary legislation to implement the EU Regulations on Veterinary Medicinal Products and on Medicated Feed, which aims at supporting reaching the target to reduce overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030, as provided by the Farm to Fork strategy.

The next progress report is planned to be published at the end of 2021.

The European Commission launches a consultation on the production of animal products without use of antibiotics

The European Commission launched on 14 July and until 11 August 2021 a public consultation on its draft delegated act which will establish a model for a complementary export certificate to certify that antibiotics are not used in the production of organic animal products. This certificate aims at helping EU organic operators gain access to markets in some non-EU countries that prohibit the use of antibiotics in these products.

This draft delegated act will complete the regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products, which will enter into force on 1er January 2022.

Update on 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 13 to 15 July 2021.

The Committee adopted 2 positive opinions for type II variation applications for Ingelvac CircoFLEX to change the product information to add the associated mixed use with other related nationally authorised products, and for Suvaxyn CSF Marker to amend the therapeutic indication by adding the indication "*for active immunisation of breeding females to reduce transplacental infection caused by CSFV*".

The Committee also adopted positive opinions for type II variation applications concerning quality-related changes for Apoquel, Ecoporc Shiga, Librela, Locatim, Nobilis Influenza H5N2, Porcilis PCV, Stelfonta and Vectormune ND.

The Committee adopted two separate scientific advice reports further to requests for one initial and one follow-up advice, of which one concerned a biological and the other one a pharmaceutical product.

The Committee adopted a reflection paper on promoting the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products in the EU. The reflection paper has been developed to perform a gap analysis of the measures currently in place and identify additional actions that could be implemented to promote the authorisation of alternatives to antimicrobials in the EU.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal welfare

The European Commission launches an initiative to revise the animal welfare legislation

The European Commission launched on 6 July 2021 an initiative to revise the European legislation on animal welfare, in order to broaden the scope of the regulation and facilitate its enforcement.

As a reminder, this review was announced as part of the European Commission's Farm to Fork strategy.

As part of this initiative, the European Commission is inviting stakeholders to contribute to its roadmap, which is available as an "initial impact assessment" on this page. In a second phase, in the 4th quarter of 2021, the Commission will open a public consultation period in the form of a questionnaire, which will allow for more targeted input from stakeholders. The revision proposal is to be presented by the European Commission in the 4th quarter of 2023.

The review covers the following topics:

- Animal welfare during transport – specifically:
  - Space allowances during transport, duration of transport and travel conditions;
  - Exports of live animals to non-EU countries;
  - The issue of improved monitoring and enforcement through the introduction of new technologies;
  - The welfare of unweaned animals and other vulnerable animals;
  - The welfare of dogs and cats transported for commercial purposes;
  - The use of means of transport adapted to new technologies;
- Animal welfare on farms, including:
  - The introduction of common and comprehensive animal welfare principles and requirements (good feeding, good environment, etc.);
  - The duty of care;
  - Banning of cages;
  - Increased space allowances;
  - The use of mutilation;
  - Competence of animal keepers;
- Animal welfare at slaughter;
- The issue of animal welfare labelling.

Latest news on the initiative to ban on-farm cages

On 19 July 2021, EU Members States within the Council discussed the European Commission's ambition to ban on-farm cages.

As a reminder, the European Commission plans to present a legislative proposal by the end of 2023 to prohibit cages for several farm animals, namely laying hens, sows, calves, rabbits, pullets, layer breeders, broiler breeders, quail, ducks and geese.

During the meeting of 19 July, the positions of the EU Member States were the following:

- Support to the Commission's initiative by various countries, including Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Greece;

- Cyprus called for a long transitional period;
- Romania and Slovakia called for an impact assessment, transitional periods and support from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to ban cages;
- Estonia explained that a ban on cages is not necessarily the best solution, advising, among other things, that stocking densities should be reduced;
- Hungary mentioned very high costs and the risk of reduced production as a result of the ban;
- Several countries, including Italy, Greece, Spain and France, drew attention to imports from third countries that do not respect standards as strict as those of the EU.

The European Commission will launch a public consultation by early 2022, before presenting its legislative proposal. Following its adoption, the proposed legislation is expected to enter into force from 2027.

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