



While the European institutions continue negotiating the reform of the common agricultural policy, the European Parliament is discussing its position on the European Commission's Farm to Fork strategy. In this regard, UEVP welcomes the position of the Parliament's committee on trade, which takes into account animal welfare and hopes that this topic will be addressed in the final position of the Parliament as a whole, together with the issue of antimicrobial resistance.

As the impacts of Brexit are unfolding, UEVP would also like to highlight the possibility to create a "Common Veterinary Area" between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

We will closely monitor the discussions on these issues while promoting the key function of veterinarians.

Piotr KWIECIŃSKI, UEVP President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRIORITY ISSUES	2
Latest EU institutional news	2
Latest news on antibiotics at EU level	3
Update on EMA activities	4
OTHER ISSUES	5
Latest news on the Veterinary profession	5
Latest news on animal health.....	6
Latest news on animal welfare.....	7

PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest EU institutional news

Latest developments on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies

The European Commission was expected to present a study assessing the [Farm to Fork](#) and [Biodiversity](#) strategies on the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in January 2021. At a webinar organised by the European Agri-Food Trade Liaison Committee on 10 March 2021, Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski said that this study was still being finalized. The study should therefore be released in the upcoming weeks.

It should be noted that the publication of this study has been asked several times by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) over the last few months.

Farm to Fork strategy

On 18 March, MEPs from the committee on International Trade (INTA) within the European Parliament adopted their [opinion](#) on the European Commission's [Farm to Fork strategy](#). In the opinion report, the committee considers among others, that the protection of human rights, labour, environmental or animal welfare standards "*should be an integral part of all chapters of trade agreements*".

The INTA committee has exclusive competence on issues relating to trade agreements, which means that the Agriculture (AGRI) and Environment (ENVI) committees which are both responsible on the report of the Farm to Fork strategy in the European Parliament, must accept the opinion report adopted by INTA committee.

The jointly drafted [report](#) on the Farm to Fork strategy by AGRI and ENVI Committees should be adopted in these committees on 3 June 2021, before a vote in plenary session.

Biodiversity strategy

Concerning the Parliamentary [draft report](#) on the European Commission's [Biodiversity strategy](#), it is the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee) which is responsible.

As a reminder, more than 1 200 amendments have been tabled by ENVI Committee's members.

The ENVI committee postponed the vote on this draft report, which should take place on April 15, before a vote in plenary session.

Latest developments on the CAP reform

The European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament continue negotiating the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform.

At the initiative of the Portuguese presidency of the Council – which leads the negotiations at the Council level until the end of June 2021 – the Commission, the Council and the Parliament took part in a "super trilogue" on 26 March, in the margins of the trilogues dedicated to each of the texts under negotiation in the framework of the CAP reform. This meeting enabled progress to be made on several specific points under discussion, including on the review of the CAP's performance, conditionality of aids and the transparency of the future CAP.

Many subjects still need to be discussed, in particular the percentage to be devoted to eco-schemes, the targeting of aid, the definition of an “active farmer”, the budget reserved for young farmers, and the capping, degressivity and redistribution of aid.

As a reminder, in January 2021, the European Commission published a [list](#) of potential farming practices that eco-schemes could support under the future CAP, which includes among others organic farming, pesticide management, agroecology and animal welfare.

Other trilogues are also planned for April 2021. As a reminder, the Portuguese Minister of Agriculture Maria do Céu Antunes would like the negotiations on CAP reform to end by May 2021.

Brexit: Positioning of Eurogroup for animals demanding the establishment of a Common Veterinary Area

At the beginning of March 2021, the organization Eurogroup for animals – one of the major non-governmental organizations (NGOs) promoting animal welfare at European level – repeated the importance of establishing a Common Veterinary Area between the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK), and especially between the EU and Northern Ireland on one side, and Great Britain on the other.

According to the organization, this Common Veterinary Area could be established following the model of what exists between the EU and Switzerland and could provide a common space for the trade in animals and animal products, as well as for the control of animal diseases. Therefore, it would abolish most border veterinary controls.

EU Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, responsible for interinstitutional relations, better policymaking and strategic foresight declared in February 2021 that the EU would be prepared to look at a bilateral veterinary agreement with the British government. In March 2021, the European Commission also declared however, that it still expects permanent border controls to be fully running by mid-2021.

Latest news on antibiotics at EU level

Parliamentary question on the consumption of antibiotics

On 8 January 2021, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Olivier Chastel (RE, Belgium) submitted a parliamentary [question](#) for written answer to the European Commission. In his question, the Member of the European Parliament asked how the EU4Health program would help reduce the consumption of antibiotics both for humans and animals.

On 19 March 2021, the European Commission [replied](#) to his question and stated that it has published [Guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in human health](#). According to the Commission, next to the program, the new [EU Pharmaceutical Strategy](#) and the new [EU Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority](#) will propose legislative and non-legislative measures to promote investment in research, development, manufacturing, deployment and use for novel antibiotics. Finally, the EU4Health Programme will support Member States to implement national action plans to decrease the inappropriate use of antimicrobial and fight against AMR.

FVE strategy for 2021-2025 on antimicrobials

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) released in March 2021 its [strategy](#) for the period 2021-2025. It focusses on the following objectives:

- Promoting One Health and sustainability
- Building one veterinary community
- Being recognised and influential
- Studying veterinary demography and promoting rewarding careers
- Embracing technology.

As part of the objective to promote “*One Health and Sustainability*”, the strategy aims at strengthening FVE’s “*efforts on disease prevention*”, for example “*by promoting better rearing conditions and regular animal health visits*”, and “*continue to promote the responsible use of medicines, including antimicrobials*”.

The strategy also mentions the objectives of the European Commission’s Farm to Fork [Strategy](#), which aims among others, at reducing overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030.

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 16 to 18 March 2021.

The Committee adopted a positive opinion for a type II variation application for Cortavance to add “for alleviation of clinical signs associated with atopic dermatitis in dogs” as a new therapeutic indication.

The Committee adopted a positive opinion for type II variation applications for Ingelvac CircoFlex, Ingelvac MycoFlex and MS-H Vaccine concerning quality-related changes.

The Committee was informed of the decision of ECO Animal Health Europe Limited to withdraw the extension application for chickens for Aivlosin.

The Committee adopted a positive opinion for bambarmycin to chickens to extend the maximum residue limits.

The Committee reviewed the PSUR for Comfortis and asked for changes in the product information. The Committee also reviewed the PSURs for Arti-Cell Frte, Aservo EquiHaler, Clevor, Forceris and Imrestor. It concluded that no change in their product information was required.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on the Veterinary profession

EFSA's latest report highlights: compliance rates in veterinary drug residues are still high

On 24 March 2021, EFSA published its latest [report](#) for 2019 for the results from the monitoring of veterinary medicinal product residues and other substances in live animals and animal products. EU Member States, Iceland and Norway brought 671.642 samples and 0,32% of them exceeded maximum levels. In comparison with the last two years, the non-compliance rates have slightly increased for antithyroid agents and steroids. It has slightly decreased for resorcylic acid lactones, prohibited substances, antibacterials, anticoccidials, and dyes.

The data are available on [Knowledge Junction](#) which is EFSA's repository to improve transparency, reproducibility and reusability of evidence in food and feed safety risk assessments.

Survey from Animal health Europe on veterinary medicines

From December 2020 to January 2021, Animal health Europe commissioned an online survey among citizens in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. 6 000 respondents were polled on various topics such as the right to receive medicines, animal welfare, disease prevention and cure, zoonoses, food safety and general awareness.

On the one side, the results have highlighted awareness on the benefits of the use of veterinary medicines for both animal welfare (for 61% of the respondents) and sustainable food production. 68% of the respondents believe the vaccination of farm animals helps to prevent diseases being transferred to people, 77% believe that healthy farm animals enable farmers to produce and supply food in a sustainable manner; 80% believe healthy farm animals will produce better quality products. The respondents are also aware of the advantages of preventive care with 76% of respondents agreeing pets should be vaccinated regularly. 78% agree that pets should be checked by a vet regularly (at least once a year) and 80% believe it is important to regularly use tick and flea prevention when keeping a pet.

On the other side, results have shown a lack of awareness on the rules for use of veterinary medicines. 59% of the respondents are unaware that use of hormones as growth promoters in farming is not allowed in Europe, and 62% do not know that the use of veterinary antibiotics as growth promoters in farming is not allowed either.

The summary of the findings can be found [here](#).

Positioning of Animal health Europe on the comitology reform

On 17 March 2021, Animal Health Europe together with 14 other organisations released a [positioning](#) on the comitology reform, reiterating its opposition to the European Commission's [proposal](#) of 2017 to revise the comitology (currently regulated by [comitology regulation](#) of 2011) as well as the adopted [amendments](#) of the European Parliament of December 2020 on this proposal.

“Comitology” refers to several procedures through which the European Commission adopts acts to implement European legislation with the assistance of committees of representatives from EU countries.

According to the organization, the changes proposed by the European Commission “*would make the processes for product authorisations more complex, lengthy and less predictable*” whereas the amendments of the European Parliament would “*revert the logic from currently ‘approve when safe’ to ‘approve only when popular’*” and “*enable a minority of Member States to block the authorisations of products, even if their safety is confirmed by the risk assessment agencies.*”

This reform, which was proposed in 2017, has not been adopted. In May 2018, 15 Member States drafted a joint document suggesting that there was no need to reform the procedure (Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, UK), which led to block the file.

Recently, the former rapporteur in the European Parliament on this file József Szájer (EPP, Hungary) – which left the Parliament in 2020, has been replaced by Jiri Pospisil (EPP, Czechia) in March 2021.

Latest news on animal health

The European Commission opens a public consultation on animal nutrition

On 23 March 2021, the European Commission opened a [public consultation](#) on the modernisation of EU rules on feed additives.

The European Commission explains in its inception impact assessment (available on [this page](#)) that the rules “*need to be adapted to the goals of sustainable farming and to raise awareness of the positive effects for the environment and animal welfare*”, in accordance with the Farm to Fork [Strategy](#).

In particular, according to the Commission's inception impact assessment, it plans to revise the [Feed Additives Regulation](#) of 2004 in order to tackle a wide range of issues, among which:

- The current needs of sustainable animal farming, which are considered not sufficiently addressed;
- The limited availability of certain feed additives due to the lack of flexibility in the Regulation to promote technical and scientific innovation;
- The lengthy authorisation process;
- The unnecessary administrative burden;
- The reduction of the capacity of EU Member States to control imports in an efficient manner leading to unfair competition between EU operators and non-EU operators;
- The dependency on imports from third countries for some additives.

The public consultation is open until 17 June 2021 and can be accessed [here](#).

Following this consultation, the European Commission should present a legislative proposal between October and December 2021.

Latest news on animal welfare

The protection of animal welfare in the new Organic Action Plan of the European Commission

On 25 March 2021, the European Commission released its [Organic Action Plan](#), as expected according to the [Farm to Fork](#) and [Biodiversity](#) strategies of the Commission. These strategies mention the Commission's aim to achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030.

The twenty actions proposed in the European Commission's action plan aim to encourage consumption, increase production, and further improve the sustainability of organic farming. Concerning specifically initiatives aiming at improving animal welfare, the European Commission plans to:

- support research and innovation under the programme Horizon Europe on alternative sources of organic vitamins and other substances that might turn out to be necessary, and on alternative sources of protein keeping in mind their technical and economic feasibility;
- explore means to support the application for feed additives produced without genetically modified microorganisms (GMM), feed based on insects as well as marine feed stocks;
- adopt an algae initiative in 2022 to support EU algae production and support the EU algae industry to ensure the supply of algae as alternative feed material for organic animal farming;
- in the context of the Animal Welfare Platform, continue working with Member States and civil society to find concrete and operational ways to further improve animal welfare in organic production.

The organisation Eurogroup for Animals welcomed the European Commission's Action Plan to better protect animal welfare and especially in organic production. It recommends to the Commission a series of initiatives in line with this action plan, including implementing *“concrete animal welfare improvements such as slow-growing breeds in broilers, a ban on surgical castration of pigs and transport time limitations”* and *“ensuring proper enforcement of the existing organic rules for animal welfare, for instance effective stunning of fish at slaughter, before granting the organic logo”*.

With the support of



info@euralia.eu