



In order to better understand the challenges facing the profession - in the context of a shortage of veterinarians - we invite you to respond to the call for contributions to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion campaign launched by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) to collect the opinions and reflections of representatives of the veterinary profession on these three principles.

Furthermore, from an animal health perspective, the fight against antimicrobial resistance continues to be a focus at European level. To achieve this, EFSA recently published an opinion recommending measures to reduce the duration of transport and to improve the cleaning of vehicles, equipment and areas where animals are loaded and unloaded. The issue of animal transport is central to the position of some Member States in favour of animal welfare protection.

In effect, this aspect - along with many other key elements for the animal health and welfare sector- will be included in the review of the EU animal welfare legislation, scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2023, which was reaffirmed as a priority in the 2023 Work Program presented by the European Commission in mid October.

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PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest EU institutional news

Latest developments on the CAP reform

Since the end of the summer period, the European Commission has approved the majority of Member States' National Strategic Plans (NSPs) or has already obtained the second version of the remaining NSPs (such as those of Latvia, the Czech Republic and Romania), which are in the process of being validated.

On 28 October, it was the third package of approval of the strategic plans implementing the new CAP by the European Commission, including the NSPs of Croatia, Slovenia and Sweden.

However, the European Commission is still waiting for seven latecomers who have not yet submitted their finalized NSPs. These are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Belgium. Belgium has the particularity of having two NSPs to submit: one for the Walloon region and the other for the Flemish region. However, all these NSPs must be submitted to and validated by the European Commission before the new CAP comes into force on January 1, 2023.

Meanwhile, on October 6th, the European CAP Network - grouping the European Partnership for Agricultural Innovation (EIP-AGRI) and the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) - was launched and aims to be identified as the new network to support the implementation and evaluation of the CAP as well as boosting innovation of the agriculture sector.

Data collection on the veterinary profession at EU level

Call for contributions to the FVE Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) Campaign

In order to promote the veterinary profession - and to ensure the well-being of all member veterinarians - the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) has made Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) its priorities.

To this end, the FVE has launched a campaign to gather the views and contributions of representatives of the veterinary profession on these three principles. Reflections, experiences and views can be on socio-economic issues, race and gender issues, geographical locations, chronic diseases, pain and disability, non-native speakers, and any other topic deemed relevant.

Given the shortage of veterinarians, this information gathering will help to better understand the challenges facing the profession, including attracting and retaining veterinarians.

To participate, please find all further information here: [call of contributions](#).

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 4 to 6 October 2022.

The Committee adopted three positive opinions for variations requiring assessment to align the product information application with the latest version (9.0) of the QRD template for **Equip WNV** as well as **Circomax** and

Circomax Myo (both via the grouped procedure including deletion of the warning regarding the absence of safety data during pregnancy and lactation from the product information).

The Committee adopted two positive opinions for variation requiring assessment concerning quality-related changes for **Arti-Cell Forte** and **Zenalpha**.

The Committee adopted one positive opinion for an extension of the existing authorization for **Meloxoral** to include a new pharmaceutical form for dogs, and one positive opinion for a marketing authorization application for **Mometamax Ultra**, a new product for dogs intended for the treatment of otitis externa caused by mixed infections with bacteria susceptible to gentamicin and fungi susceptible to posaconazole.

The Committee adopted a positive opinion for a type II variation for **Simparica Trio** to update the SPC regarding the onset of efficacy for *Ixodes ricinus* ticks.

The Committee adopted two positive opinions for type II variation with a work-sharing for **Simparica** and **MiPet Easecto** regarding the addition of a new therapeutic indication for reduction of the risk of infection with *Babesia canis canis* via transmission by *Dermacentor reticulatus* for 28 days after treatment.

The Committee adopted three positive opinions for type II variations concerning quality-related changes for **Bovela** (grouped) as well as **Versican Plus Pi/L4R** and **Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R** (work-sharing procedure).

The Committee was informed of the formal notification by Zoetis Belgium SA of their decision to withdraw the application for an initial marketing authorisation application for **Versiguard SARS CoV2**, as well as the formal notification by Orion Corporation of their decision to withdraw the Type II variation application for the addition of a new therapeutic indication for **Sileo** - for dogs-.

The Committee agreed to amend the existing entry for **pentaerythrityl tetrakis[3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate]** in the list of substances considered as not falling within the scope of [Regulation 470/2009](#) under the heading of excipients.

Following two requests for limited market classification and eligibility, the Committee classified:

- an immunological product for horses as intended for limited market and eligible for authorisation
- an alimentary tract and metabolism product for dogs was considered not eligible for authorisation

The Committee started a procedure for the assessment of data generated in response to conditions applied to marketing authorisations for **veterinary medicinal products containing moxidectin to be administered orally, topically or subcutaneously to cattle, sheep and horses**.

The Committee appointed Ms Mary O'Grady and Dr Rory Breathnach as co-opted members to complement its expertise in quality and veterinary clinical practice, respectively, for a 3-year term.

Finally, the Presidency of the CVMP will be held under the Czech Presidency of the EU on 12-13 October 2022. Discussions will focus on the revision of the CVMP benefit-risk guideline, signal management, pet parasiticides and the environment, the EU/CVMP approach to contributing to VICH, data protection of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/6](#) and the availability of veterinary medicines in veterinary practice.

Latest news on antimicrobial resistance at EU level

Publication of a European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion on the transmission of antimicrobial resistance during animal transport

In [an opinion](#) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published on 25 October, reducing transport duration and thoroughly cleaning vehicles, equipment and spaces where animals are loaded and unloaded are some of the measures recommended **to reduce the transmission of resistant bacteria during animal transport, a key step in the control of antimicrobial resistance**. The scientific opinion covers poultry, pigs and cattle.

EFSA has examined all modes of transport, including road transport, and highlights that appropriate transport organisation is essential. Among the risk factors identified, lack of space, hygiene and the length of journeys are the main contributors to the spread of antimicrobial resistance. Long journeys that require rests in assembly centres and control posts are indeed associated with higher risks, due to specific factors such as close contacts between animals from different farms, environmental contamination and stress.

As a reminder, on 7 September, EFSA had already published [five specific scientific](#) studies on animal welfare during transport, recommending to keep journey times to a minimum. These studies aim to help the European Commission prepare its proposal, expected in 2023, revising the legislation on animal welfare.

Latest news on animal health

EU agriculture ministers oppose European Commission proposals to reduce co-financing rate for emergency plant health and veterinary measures

At the Agriculture Council on 17 October, the EU agriculture ministers met and notably discussed the European Commission's plan to reduce the co-financing of phytosanitary and veterinary programmes in the Member States.

Austria and Hungary, supported by almost all countries (21 delegations), rejected the European Commission's proposals to:

- reducing the EU co-financing rate for emergency measures to 40% for all unsigned grant agreements (from 50% and 75%);
- temporarily reducing the co-financing rate for national (annual) veterinary and phytosanitary programs for three years (from 2023 to 2025) to 40%;
- and phasing out co-financing of the bovine tuberculosis program by 2023 instead of 2024.

In her explanation, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella KYRIAKIDES, recalled that the management of certain animal diseases, including the multiplication of outbreaks of African swine fever and avian influenza, had severely impacted the budget available in the framework of the single market. She nevertheless assured that the European Commission was doing “*its best to find alternative means of financing*”.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal welfare

Publication by the European Commission of its fitness check report on EU animal welfare legislation

On 4 October, the European Commission [published](#) its ‘Fitness check’ report on EU animal welfare legislation.

According to the report, while EU legislation has “*led to an improvement in the welfare of a number of animals in Europe*” - particularly in the categories covered by targeted legislation (such as pigs, calves, laying hens and broilers) – “*animal welfare in the EU has still not reached an optimal level*”.

The European Commission identifies weaknesses concerning:

- The scope of the legislation:
 - Some categories of animals are not covered by the legislation, such as dairy cows and farmed fish.
 - Confined housing and cages are identified as problematic, especially in the context of laying hens, sows and calves
 - Animal movement legislation does not extend to the keeping of cats and dogs

- **Enforcement and control of legislation:**
 - The European Commission mentions that despite the progress made, compliance with the rules continues to be a major challenge in areas such as: *“animal transport, in particular with regard to long journeys, transport of young or pregnant animals and livestock exports. Certain stunning methods and routine docking of pigs are also highly problematic from a compliance perspective. There is a **lack of robust indicators for monitoring and improving animal welfare**”.*
 - Differences in implementation and enforcement continue to hamper cross-border trade and prevent the same level of animal welfare being achieved throughout the EU.

Thus, the European Commission considers that EU legislation on animal welfare, which has remained unchanged for more than a decade, is not in line with the latest legislative developments in the different Member States, leading to a further degradation of the situation. The European Commission believes that there is a need to mobilise the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and trade policy to support the EU's animal welfare objectives.

The European Commission concludes that *“the current rules do not fully take into account society's growing expectations and ethical concerns, scientific and technological developments as well as future sustainability challenges. Therefore, current EU legislation on animal welfare is not fully adapted to current and future needs”* and calls for a review of the current legislation.

Publication and presentation of the European Commission's 2023 work program

On 18 October, the European Commission presented its 2023 [work program](#) entitled **“A Union standing firm and united”**.

The Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for inter-institutional relations and foresight, Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, stressed in his speech the importance of finalising as soon as possible the proposals highlighted as priorities in the program in order to *“meet the expectations of citizens and businesses in these challenging times”*.

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, emphasised *“an ambitious program for citizens”* in a context of energy, economic and geopolitical crisis.

To be noted that the work program mentions **the revision of the European legislation on animal welfare** as a priority, planned for the 3rd quarter of 2023, in order to extend its scope and guarantee a higher level of animal welfare. The project will also have to respond to the [recommendations](#) of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the [European Citizens' Initiative](#) *“End the Cage Age”*.

Member States mobilise for EU ban on culling of male chicks

At the Agriculture Council on 17 October, Member States collectively argued that the practice of culling male chicks should be banned at EU level. The European Commission has been invited to present a proposal to this effect as part of the package expected in the third quarter of 2023 revising animal welfare legislation.

Prior to the Council, a [note drafted](#) by France and Germany - and supported by Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal - indicated their willingness to obtain an impact assessment on the implementation of the EU ban, as requested from the European Commission at the July 2021 Council.

Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece also requested to take into account the socio-economic aspects of such a ban, as well as the differences in farming systems in EU countries and to help farmers in the transition.

The European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella KYRIAKIDES, reaffirmed her position that the ban should be phased in gradually, to give stakeholders time to find alternatives. This announcement was welcomed by some animal protection organisations, notably [Eurogroup for Animals](#).

Publication of the annual report on the implementation and enforcement of EU trade agreements by the European Commission

On 11 October, the European Commission published its [annual report](#) on the implementation and enforcement of EU trade agreements.

The report highlights a lack of transparency on the impact of EU trade policies related to animal welfare. Indeed, with the exception of the [joint declaration](#) on animal welfare with Canada in July 2021, progress in this area remains limited.

In view of these results, the EU animal welfare association, [Eurogroup for Animal](#), is [calling](#) on the European Commission for "a more ambitious commitment from third countries in key areas such as animal welfare".

Limitation of animal transports from Germany to countries outside the EU for exports of live cattle, sheep and goats for breeding

In a [statement](#) on 28 October, Agriculture Minister Cem ÖZDEMİR announced that **German veterinary certificates required for the export of cattle, sheep and goats for breeding outside the EU will be withdrawn as of 1^{er} July 2023**.

This decision follows a [note](#) from Germany - supported by Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and Sweden - which was shared with the other Member States on 5th July, listing several recommendations regarding the transport of animals. Concerning their export outside the EU, the coalition demanded in particular that EU rules be respected until the animals' final destination.

In this context, the German Minister said: "*We cannot continue to allow animals to suffer or die in excruciating pain during long transports. But to ensure that national restrictions are not circumvented, we also urgently need better common rules in Europe.*"

This aspect will be addressed by the European Commission in its review of animal welfare legislation, scheduled for the third quarter of 2023, which will be based notably on several opinions of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on animal transport.

New animal welfare labelling system adopted in Germany

Considered a political priority by German Agriculture Minister Cem ÖZDEMİR, the German government [adopted](#) a new labelling system for animal welfare on 12 October.

This labelling will initially concern fresh and unprocessed pork, but will gradually cover other animal species, according to a timetable to be defined later on.

It will consist of five levels, ranging from indoor farming without outdoor areas to free-range and organic farming. The labelling will be compulsory for German products and will apply on a voluntary basis to other states that export their meat to Germany.

Finally, the Ministry of Agriculture assures that it will financially support farmers who make changes to their farms to improve animal welfare.

Event organised by the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals dealing with alternative and innovative solutions to animal experimentation

On 24 October, the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals organised an [event](#) dealing with alternative and innovative solutions to animal experimentation.

On this occasion, several panellists from the European institutions (including the European Commission's Joint Research Centre), academic experts, industry and stakeholders expressed their commitment and proposed measures to move towards a legislative revision in favour of non-animal testing approaches.

To be noted that this debate takes place in the following context:

- In October 2020, the European Commission [adopted](#) its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS), targeting in particular the reduction of the use of animal testing and understanding the importance of innovation to achieve its goals.
- Following this, in September 2021, the European Parliament [adopted a resolution](#) asking the European Commission to develop an action plan to accelerate the transition to non-animal testing.
- Finally, in August 2022, the [European Citizens' Initiative](#) "*Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics - Commit to a Europe without Animal Testing*" received over 1.4 million signatures.

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