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Union Européenne des Vétérinaires Praticiens – AISBL
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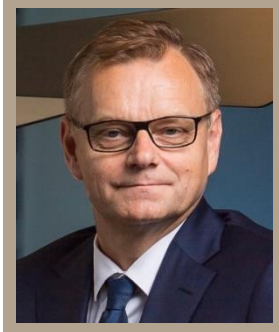

Following the summer break, I would like to acknowledge the support of the European Parliament concerning the European Commission's draft Delegated Regulation on "Criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans" by rejecting the Resolution objecting to this draft Act.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all veterinary colleagues for their joint effort in presenting well-weighted arguments and promoting them among national and European organizations what leads to building awareness that AMR needs to be handled through One Health holistic and science-based approach.

I would also like to highlight the vote of the parliamentary report on the Farm to Fork strategy, which also expresses the importance of tackling antimicrobial resistance at European level.

Piotr KWIECIŃSKI, UEVP President

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PRIORITY ISSUES

Latest EU institutional news

Latest developments on the Farm to Fork strategy

Members of the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Agriculture (AGRI) Committees adopted on 9th September 2021 all the compromise amendments to the draft report on the Farm to Fork strategy.

As a reminder, the compromise amendments to the text include provisions on antimicrobial resistance:

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

Following the adoption of compromise amendments, MEPs from both the ENVI and AGRI committees adopted the draft report on the Farm to Fork strategy on 10th September 2021 with 94 votes in favour, 20 against and 10 abstentions.

The initiative report as adopted in the AGRI and ENVI committees is expected to be debated and voted during the next European Parliament plenary session in October 2021. 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 European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) adopted the three texts of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform on 9th September 2021.

The results of the votes on the three texts of the CAP reform are as follows:

- Regulation on National Strategic Plans: 38 in favour, 8 against and 2 abstentions
- Regulation on the common organisation of the market in agricultural products: 40 in favour, 5 against and 3 abstentions
- "Horizontal" Regulation on the financing of the CAP: 39 in favour, 7 against and 2 abstentions

Following this vote in the Parliament's AGRI Committee, all MEPs must vote on the three texts in the Parliament's plenary session. This vote could take place in November 2021. Following the plenary vote, the Council will also have to approve the three texts of the CAP reform.

Furthermore, in parallel to the process of adopting the three CAP reform regulations, a series of delegated and implementing acts will have to be adopted by the European Commission in the coming months, in order to specify technical elements on the content of these three regulations.

Latest news on antibiotics at EU level

Rejection of 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

On 15th September 2021, during the plenary session of the European Parliament, 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, was rejected by a majority of Members of the European Parliaments (MEPs).

The European Parliament resolution was voted on 13th July in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and was initiated by MEP Martin Hausling (Greens, Germany).

Following the rejection of the resolution, the European Commission's delegated act is expected to be adopted in the coming days.

Adoption of a delegated act and parliamentary resolution to ensure tighter controls on growth promoting antibiotics in imported animals and meat products

During the last meeting (28th and 29th September) of the EU Council's Competitiveness configuration, the 27 EU ministers voted unanimously in favour of the Commission's proposal for a delegated act ensuring tighter controls on growth promoting antibiotics in imported animals and meat products. This provision is part of the 2018 Regulation on veterinary medicinal products (Article 118), as the use of these products is already prohibited in the EU.

The position of the Council of the EU is in line with the Parliament, which adopted a resolution in favour of the text on 15th September (685 votes in favour, 3 against and 7 abstentions). The text will enter into force on 28th January 2022.

The Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance reviews its achievements and identifies its new objectives

Following a conference held on 14th and 15th September 2021, the Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR) reviewed its previous achievements – included in the 2016-2020 Progress Report – in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in three key areas:

- the appropriate therapeutic use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine,
- the prevention of drug-resistant infections,
- and strategies for improving the pipeline of new antimicrobial medicines.

As a member of the taskforce, European Medicines Agency (EMA) has contributed to the implementation of strategies to encourage responsible use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicines, and to foster research and development of new safe and effective human antibiotics.

In order to intensify cooperation between the European Union, the United States, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom in the joint fight against AMR, the TATFAR has identified 18 actions for the next work plan 2021-2026, which is expected to be formally adopted before the end of 2021.

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 7 to 9 September 2021.

The Committee adopted one positive opinion for a marketing authorization application for Felpreva and four positive opinions for type II variation applications for Fontpro, Porcilis PCV ID, Poulvac E.coli, and Circovac.

The Committee also adopted positive opinions for type II variation applications concerning quality-related changes for Innovax-ND-IBD, Innovax-ILT and Innovax-ND-IBD, Locatim, Prevomax, ProZinc and Startvac.

The Committee adopted one scientific advice report further to a request for initial advice which concerned an immunological product. The target species was salmon.

The Committee adopted two separate draft reflection papers, the first of which is on the interpretation of Article 18(7) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 for a 3-month period of public consultation. This paper has been developed to provide guidance on when an environmental risk assessment can be requested by competent authorities in the frame of marketing authorisation applications for generic veterinary medicinal products. The second reflection paper adopted by the Committee deals with higher tier testing to investigate the effects of parasiticidal veterinary medicinal products on dung fauna.

The Committee adopted three guidelines (published in July 2021) on limited markets under Regulation (EU) 2019/6:

- on safety and residue data requirements for applications for non-immunological veterinary for applications for non-immunological veterinary medicinal products intended for limited markets;
- on efficacy and target animal safety data requirements for applications for non-immunological veterinary medicinal products intended for limited markets;
- on data requirements for applications for immunological veterinary medicinal products intended for limited markets applications.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal health

European Commission opens consultation on future update of the European catalogue of feed materials

The public consultation launched by the European Commission, which started on 9th September and will close on 7th October 2021, concerns a draft Implementing Regulation to revise Regulation (EU) 68/2013 in order to modernise the marketing standards for the majority of feed materials on the EU market, taking into account scientific and technological developments since the last revision of the regulation in 2017.

These amendments concern clarifications of general provisions, new entries for treatment processes and for feed materials and adaptations of existing entries.

In addition, specific provisions on the description, maximum levels of chemical impurities and details of mandatory declarations are intended to be established for certain emerging feed materials to provide more detailed information on the properties of the respective products. As an example, certain feed materials from the bioeconomy, food or biofuel sector should be considered as 'co-products' rather than 'by-products'.

Latest news on animal welfare

Latest developments on the activities of the Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport of the European Parliament

The Chair of the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Protection of Animals during Transport (ANIT), Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg) confirmed on 6th September 2021 that the vote on the committee's draft report and its draft recommendation would take place on 2nd December 2021, ahead of a vote in the European Parliament's plenary session potentially in January 2022.

Following the presentation of the draft report last June, 1233 amendments were tabled both for the draft report (available here and there) and the draft recommendation (here and there). Among the amendments, some of them pledge for limiting animal transport for four hours in particular for poultry, rabbits, and animals at end of their productive life. For other animals, the report recommends that the journey times should be limited to a maximum of eight hours. Some MEPs also recommend banning the exportation of live animal outside the EU.

In addition, some of these amendments point out that "*the risk of resistance to antimicrobial agents increases when animals are transported in confined and stressful spaces*" or insist on the fact that "*the training of police and veterinary authorities is heterogeneous and inadequate to ensure adequate controls at all stages of the journey*" of transported animals.

EFSA has launched a consultation on the welfare of pigs

As part of the preparation of its opinion on the rearing conditions of pigs on farm, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opened a consultation on 27th July 2021 to gather stakeholders' views on the subject. This initiative is part of the forthcoming review of EU animal welfare legislation undertaken by the European Commission.

Following the closure of the consultation on 28th September 2021, a scientific opinion by EFSA is foreseen for June 2022.

The European Commission's ambitions regarding animal welfare in international trade

During a webinar organised by the organization Eurogroup for animals on 21st September 2021, the European Commission's Deputy Director for Food Sustainability in DG Health of the European Commission, Claire Bury, announced that the Commission was working to include a "*much more detailed*" chapter on sustainable food systems in all bilateral agreements, with a specific article on animal welfare.

In addition, Claire Bury said that three options have been identified to ensure that European producers are not penalised in the context of the higher standards foreseen by the Farm to Fork strategy and the European Commission's announced plan to phase out cage farming:

- strengthen cooperation with the EU's trading partners;
- impose certain EU standards on imports in line with WTO rules;
- apply animal welfare labelling to imported products.

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