



As a group of MEPs signed an op-ed this month to call for a reinforcement of the EU food alert system in the framework of the implementation of the Veterinary Medicines Package and of the fight against antibiotic resistance, UEVP would like to take this opportunity to underline the role played by veterinaries across the European Union in this fight against antibiotic resistance. UEVP members are really involved on this topic and will closely monitor the implementation of the Veterinary Medicines Package.

Thierry Chambon, UEVP President

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PRIORITY ISSUES

MEPs want to better protect EU food alert system, beyond the adoption of the veterinary medicines package

A group of MEPs (**Bart STAES** (Greens/EFA, Belgium), **Lynn BOYLAN** (GUE, Ireland), **Guillaume BALAS** (S&D, France), **Tilly METZ** (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg), **Maria HEUBUCH** (Greens/EFA, Germany), **Eleonora EVI** (EFDD, Italy), **Thomas WAITZ** (Greens/EFA, Austria) and **Michèle RIVASI** (Greens/EFA, France) signed an [op-ed](#) in Euractiv on 6 February 2019 to call for a reinforcement of the EU food alert system.

After the adoption by the European Parliament of the [veterinary medicinal products package](#) on 25 October 2018, MEPs want more action *“to win the – very costly – fight against antibiotic resistance”*. They take the example of a massive contamination of animal feed with unauthorised vitamin B2 (also called riboflavin) that had been introduced into the human food chain in Europe back in 2014.

MEPs regret that the European Commission took too much time to react. Therefore, they propose several measures to avoid the story to repeat itself, such as **setting up an ad-hoc independent expert committee** to draw recommendations in order to avoid new issues with the EU food alert system or a **better protection over genetically-modified organisms**, with more safeguards towards those organisms which could be potentially dangerous for health or the environment.

The EMA opens a public consultation for its scientific advice on the categorisation of antimicrobials

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) opened on 5 February 2019 a public consultation on its [updated scientific advice](#) on the categorisation of antimicrobials. It will refine the classification of these medicines according to the risk their use in animals causes to public health through the possible development of antimicrobial resistance.

The update aims to take into account the experience gained since the initial publication of the categorisation of antimicrobials in 2014. The classification will now comprise **four categories** (from A to D) instead of three, each of them with a key action word attributed for more clarity (**A for avoid, B for restrict, C for caution and D for prudence**).

The categorisation is now open for a **three-month consultation**. Once finalised, it will help decision-makers in the EU in **drawing up guidelines** for the use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicines. Comments should be provided by using this [template](#). The form should be sent to vet-guidelines@ema.europa.eu no later than 30 April 2019.

Antimicrobial resistance is not slowing down, the EFSA and ECDC report.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued a [joint report](#) on 26 February 2019 with new data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in zoonotic diseases. They reveal that **antimicrobials** used to treat diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans, such as campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis, **are becoming less effective**. According to the report, which refers to 2017 data, resistance to fluoroquinolones (such as ciprofloxacin) is so high in *Campylobacter* bacteria in some countries that these antimicrobials no longer work for the treatment of severe campylobacteriosis cases. In addition, **multidrug resistance** (three or more antimicrobials) **is high in Salmonella found in humans and animals**. EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, **Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS**, reacted to the announcement,

saying that the report “**should ring -again- alarm bells**” and the [EU One Health Action Plan against AMR](#) must be implemented accordingly.

The European Commission opens a consultation on veterinary rules and official controls

On 13 February 2019, the European Commission opened a consultation on a [draft delegated regulation](#) related to the rules regarding animal treatment with veterinary medicines. The draft act lays down rules on specific **requirements for official controls** and applicable measures for **cases of non-compliance with Union rules**, such as the use of unauthorised active substances on food-producing animals and their residues. It describes the **specific actions** to be taken at the slaughterhouse in case of non-compliance, the requirements for **further investigations and follow-ups**. Stakeholders are invited to give their feedback on the draft delegated regulation [here](#) before **13 March 2019**.

Stakeholders are asked to give their opinion on rules related to the Common Health Entry Document

The European Commission opened a [consultation](#) on its [draft delegated regulation](#) concerning rules for the use of the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) at designated border control posts. The CHED comes from an [official control regulation](#) stating that consignments of animals and goods entering the Union through border control posts must be accompanied by this document.

The draft regulation aims at specify rules on **how and when the CHED should accompany consignments** intended for placing on the market. This should ensure traceability and proper communication to the authority at the place of destination. Stakeholders are asked to give their opinion on the draft act before **12 March 2019**.

The European Commission updated its list of third countries authorized to-import cats, dogs and ferrets into the EU

A [Commission implementing decision](#) was published on **18 February 2019** in the Official Journal of the European Union updating the **list of third countries authorised for import into the Union of dogs, cats and ferrets**. Any consignments of those animals authorised to be imported into the Union must come from any territories or third countries include in one these lists (Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) 206/2010](#), Annex II to [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 577/2013](#) or Annex I to [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/659](#)). As such, the new implementing decision sets out a **new animal health certificate model** that shall be completed and signed by an official veterinarian. This decision will apply from 1 July 2019.

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 19-21 February 2019, the last one in London before its relocation to Amsterdam. It adopted by majority a positive final opinion for an initial marketing authorisation application for **Horstem**, a new product for the treatment of lameness and osteoarthritis in horses. The CVMP adopted by consensus positive opinions for initial marketing authorisation application for **Chanhlod, Felisecto Plus, Forceris, ReproCys ParvoFLEX** and a type II variation for **LETIFEND, MS-H Vaccine and Zycortal**. The Committee also adopted by consensus positive opinions for the renewal of the marketing authorisations for **ERYSENG, ERYSENG PARVO** (indefinite), **Versican Plus L4, Versican Plus Pi/L4, Versican Plus DHPi/L4 and Versican Plus DHPi/L4R** (for 5 years). A procedure was started for **Betamox LA 150 mg/ml**

suspension for injection and associated names, and generic products thereof. This referral procedure concerns the appropriateness of the current withdrawal periods in cattle, sheep and pigs for the aforementioned veterinary medicinal products containing 150 mg amoxicillin per ml.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal disease at EU level

- **African Swine Fever (ASF):** The European Commission confirmed on 26 February 2019 that the ASF has been **officially eradicated in Czech Republic**. The disease was discovered on a wild boar in June 2017, and the country associated with EU Veterinary experts adopted targeted measures to control the disease. Since no more cases have been identified as of April 2018, the European Commission proposed to the Member States **to lift all the restrictions in Czechia**. They endorsed the proposal by a vote in a Standing Committee and the Commission will formally adopt the decision in the coming weeks.
- **Equine influenza:** although the epidemic is classified as stabilised in France, it is still considered as concerning in Europe. New outbreaks have been identified, but sanitary measures allowed to limit the extent of the disease. All horse races have been cancelled in the United Kingdom for six days at the beginning of February. Member States veterinary services are still monitoring the evolution of the disease and implementing measures to prevent its extension to other horses.

Latest updates on animal welfare at EU level

The Intergroup on Animal Welfare organised a meeting on the European elections

On 14 February 2019, the Intergroup for the Welfare and the Conservation of Animals [gathered](#) to look back at the results achieved by the Intergroup and to discuss the upcoming elections. The meeting highlighted the successes of this group, which succeeded to have a **positive impact on animal welfare** over this mandate, as it sustained a constructive dialogue with the European Commission through monthly meetings and several high-level events. The campaign “**Vote for animals 2019**” was presented during the event, to ensure that individual candidates make clear commitments on animal welfare and that citizens are properly informed on their positions.

All candidates for the European elections have the opportunity to sign a pledge listing their commitments for animal welfare in the next legislative term.

AnimalhealthEurope suggests protecting animal health is protecting human health as well

Roxane FELLER, Secretary General of *AnimalhealthEurope* wrote an [op-ed](#) in the Parliament Magazine on 21 February 2019 for a **better management of animal health**, as a way to prevent diseases also for human health and agri-food scandals.

The article, written as a pledge for the upcoming European elections, wants to make the deployment of existing animal health solutions and developing new ones the key priorities for the future. Roxane FELLER also proposes several measures to better protect animal health, such as **timely and science-based implementation of the new veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed regulations** or **fostering an integrated approach to combating diseases and reducing antibiotic resistance** by deploying different tools available, including vaccines and diagnostics.

MEPs voted in favour of a CAP more favourable to animal welfare

On 14 February 2019, the Committee for environment, health and food safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament adopted its [opinion](#) on the national strategic plans for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

MEPS adopted a series of amendments aiming to **exclude intensive livestock producers from the list of beneficiaries of agricultural subsidies**. The Committee voted to **reduce the density of farms** for which beneficiaries receive subsidies referred to as “coupled support” in the CAP legislation, which mostly go to beef, veal, and dairy producers. This measure would ensure that producers who receive subsidies **do not keep their animals in extreme confinement**, as subsidies are suspected to incentivise the proliferation of heavily industrialised methods of production. These amendments were welcomed by Eurogroup for Animals, stating that they propose a **more “humane” CAP and better protect animal welfare** over industrialised farming. The final report on this regulation is scheduled to be adopted by the Agriculture (AGRI) Committee at the **beginning of March**, with a vote in plenary sitting expected before the elections.

Eurogroup for Animals raises concerns on animal welfare in the EU-Singapore free trade agreement

As the European Parliament adopted the [EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement](#) on 13 February 2019, Eurogroup for animals raised some concerns about animal-related provisions, considered too weak: **wildlife trafficking and animal testing issues are not addressed in the text**. According to their analysis, a single provision on animal welfare cooperation is included in the chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, indicating that the parties “will exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare in order to promote the collaboration on animal welfare between the Parties”.

As for the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter, it includes an article on trade in fish that mentions the **importance of sustainable fisheries and the obligation to take into account the precautionary principle** when elaborating environmental measures, but the NGO considers it lacks specific provisions on biodiversity or wildlife trafficking. As many provisions of this agreement were drafted before 2013, they consider that the text reflects its age in light of recent developments regarding animal welfare in EU trade policy.

The European Commission organised and AMR Workshop in South Africa

From 5 to 8 February 2019, the European Commission organised the very first of a series of regional workshops on Antimicrobial Resistance in Cape Town, South Africa. Fifty representatives from Ministries of Health and Agriculture from nine countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) followed a training session of four days. In addition, the competent authorities from the Department of Health and Agriculture of South Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the EU Delegation to South Africa and DG Health and Food Safety participated in the workshop. The training provided **strategies and actions promoting and strengthening the prudent use of antimicrobials and monitoring AMR in veterinary, food safety and public health sectors**.

This is the first of a series of **11 regional workshops** that will be carried out in 2019 and 2020 in Africa (South Africa, Ethiopia and Jordan), Latin America (Argentina and Costa Rica), Asia (India, Indonesia, and China), and Europe (Ukraine and Montenegro) under the [Better Training for Safer Food \(BTSF\) initiative](#). The project plans to reach 500 participants from 86 countries.

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