



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 September 2012**

**13966/12**

**AGRI 602  
VETER 59  
SAN 203**

**NOTE**

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from: Danish delegation  
to: Council  
Subject: Prevention of the spread of multi-resistant ESBL-bacteria in poultry meat  
- Request from the Danish delegation

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Danish delegation on the abovementioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 24-25 September 2012.

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Denmark has experienced a drastic increase in the number of ESBL-positive poultry meat samples in 2011. The Danish “DANMAP-report” from 2011 shows that nearly every other test from both imported and Danish poultry now contains ESBL-bacteria.

ESBL is a type of antimicrobial resistance found in both humans and in production animals, of which poultry has the highest prevalence. ESBL resistance is closely related to the use of the antimicrobials named Cephalosporins.

In Denmark as well as in some other member states cephalosporins have not been used in poultry production for the last ten years. Owing to this fact, ESBL presence in poultry production can not originate from the use of cephalosporins in these countries.

The structure of the poultry production pyramid in the EU is such, that only a few member states produce the grandparent stock for poultry production. From these member states animals are distributed to other EU member states with a poultry production.

In the Scientific Opinion from the European Food Safety Authority on the public health risk of bacterial strains producing ESBL<sup>1</sup> it is stated, that ESBL from poultry production imposes a human health risk, and therefore it is of high priority to reduce the use of antimicrobials in order to reduce the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance and prevent vertical transmission from the top of the poultry production pyramid.

With a reference to the Council Conclusions of 22 June 2012 on “the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector and in the veterinary sector — a ‘One Health’ perspective” Denmark encourages the Commission and the Member States to take steps to prevent the spread of resistant bacteria such as ESBL in the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> EFSA Journal 2011;9(8):2322.