



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Call for European action on Antimicrobial Resistance
- Information from the Danish delegation, supported by the Swedish delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Danish delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 14-15 November 2016.

Call for European action on Antimicrobial Resistance

According to the latest report by European Medicines Agency on “Sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in 29 European countries in 2014” published on 14 October 2016 there has been a significant increase in use of antimicrobials in the veterinary sector in some Member States. This increase in veterinary consumption of antimicrobials is alarming and calls for immediate action.

On the 16 – 17 June 2016 the Council adopted conclusions on the next steps under a One Health approach to combat antimicrobial resistance. The Council conclusions highlight that to make progress in the fight against antimicrobial resistance a new EU Action Plan should contain measurable (clearly defined quantitative or qualitative) goals, benchmarks and effective measures to achieve these goals.

It is important that the European Union continues its efforts as laid down in the Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance 2011-2016. It is vital, that the EU ensures continuity and further progress in the fight against antimicrobial resistance from 2017 and beyond.

One step should be to consider the EU legislative proposal on veterinary medicinal products as an opportunity to regulate the area and limit the use of veterinary antimicrobials and secure a more uniform monitoring of the veterinary consumption. It should in particular include provisions to ban the preventive use of antibiotics for all forms of administration, as already proposed in the draft regulation on medicated feed. The possibility of exceptional and justified derogations should be foreseen in the regulation.

The roadmap - Commission's Communication on a One-Health Action Plan to support Member States in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, dated the 24 October 2016 concludes that there are three areas where EU can bring added value in the fight against antimicrobial resistance , i.e.:

- 1) supporting Member States, particularly in establishing, implementing and monitoring their National Action Plans;
- 2) bringing together EU funds and instruments, to promote innovation and research against antimicrobial resistance; and
- 3) helping to strengthen the EU's role in global fora, notably within the UN institutions and with major trade partners.

To ensure progress it is of the utmost importance that the Commission and the Member States take immediate responsibility to make sure that the adopted council conclusions are being implemented and that a new action plan on antimicrobial resistance will be developed.

The efforts made in many Member States to reduce the use of antimicrobials in the veterinary sector must be recognized. Antimicrobial resistance does not respect borders, and to avoid useless efforts being made, the effort in the entire European Union must be significant, and action by all Member States must be ensured.

Thus a more detailed monitoring of the veterinary use of antimicrobials in Member States must be put in place in order to set valid and meaningful goals for reduction.

Furthermore the Commission is requested to inform the Council on the timetable for the presentation of a new EU action plan on antimicrobial resistance.
