**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Responsible use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Swedish and Danish delegations to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 16 June 2014.

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Responsible use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry

Since penicillin was introduced in the 1940s, antibiotics have been crucial for the treatment of infections in humans and animals.

After seventy years, this use is seriously threatened by the development and spread of bacteria resistant to the most common antibiotics

The consequences are serious. Approximately 25,000 people die each year in the EU due to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Medical costs and productivity losses are estimated at least €1.5 billion per year.

The problem has been recognized by both the Council and the European Parliament, and the Commission has taken several important steps, both in human medicine and in animal husbandry. For example, it has reinforced control legislation, made recommendations on antibiotic use and reporting, and invested funds into research on new drugs.

Although the actions taken so far go in the right direction, they have not succeeded in containing the rising threat from antibiotic resistance. The Commission therefore launched in autumn 2011 an action plan with 12 concrete actions to stem the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

The action plan includes both human and veterinary medicine, and the overall objective aim to reduce the risk of resistance developing in people because of non-prudent antibiotic use.

The action plan has now been operational for a number of years and Sweden and Denmark want to ask the Commission for a status report on the outcome of the various measures proposed in the Action Plan.

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