



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 31 August 2015  
(OR. en)

11557/15

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
2013/0136 (COD)

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AGRI 443  
VETER 64  
AGRILEG 160  
ANIMAUX 38  
SAN 257  
CODEC 1129

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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No. Cion doc.: 9468/13 - COM(2013) 260 final

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
on Animal Health  
- Political agreement

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1. On 6 May 2013, the Commission submitted to the Council the above proposal, which aims at implementing the commitments and visions outlined in the Animal Health Strategy for the European Union<sup>1</sup> and at consolidating the legal framework for a common EU animal health policy.
2. On 15 April 2014, the European Parliament adopted its position at first reading, consisting of 331 amendments<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on A new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013) where "Prevention is better than cure", 13292/07 - COM(2007) 539 final.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 8306/14.

3. The Working Party on Veterinary Experts (Animal Health) examined the Commission proposals at various meetings during the Irish, Lithuanian, Greek and Italian Presidencies<sup>3</sup>.
4. On 17 December 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee reached an agreement on the Presidency compromise text resulting from that examination and mandated the incoming Latvian Presidency to negotiate with the European Parliament an early second reading agreement.
5. Following a number of technical meetings and informal trilogues during the Latvian Presidency, a tentative agreement on a compromise text was reached in a trilogue on 1 June 2015<sup>4</sup>. That compromise text was endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 10 June 2015.
6. On 17 June 2015, the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament addressed a letter to the President of the Permanent Representatives Committee stating that, if the Council adopts its position at first reading in accordance with the above-mentioned compromise, he would recommend to the Plenary that the Council's position be accepted without amendment, subject to legal-linguistic verification, at Parliament's second reading.

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<sup>3</sup> In addition, the draft proposal was examined by the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers and the Agricultural Attaches/Counsellors.

<sup>4</sup> Doc 9171/15 + ADD1-6.

7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council to:

a) confirm, under the A items of one of its future meetings, a political agreement on the draft Regulation as set out in Addendum 1 to the present Note<sup>5</sup>

and

b) take note of the statements to be entered in the minutes of the Council that will adopt the Council's position at first reading, as contained in the Annex to this Note.

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<sup>5</sup> To be followed by a formal adoption of the Council's position as soon as the legal/linguistic revision of the text has been completed.

**Joint Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on antimicrobial resistance**

*“The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance<sup>6</sup> – emphasises the preventive role of the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases (“Animal Health Law”) and the consequent expected reduction of the use of antibiotics in animals. In addition to the requirements of this Regulation, Member States are called upon to commit themselves to collect relevant, comparable and sufficiently detailed data on the actual use of antimicrobial medicinal products in animals and to send such data to the Commission in order to ensure a more prudent use of antimicrobial medicinal products in animals, hence contributing to the reduction of the risk of antimicrobial resistance.”*

**Commission statement on antimicrobial resistance**

*“The Commission undertakes to publish a regular report as regards the use of antimicrobial medicinal products in animals in the EU on the basis of data made available by the Member States”*

**Commission Statement on animal welfare**

*“This Regulation lays down rules for the prevention and control of animal diseases which are transmissible to animals or to humans and does not contain provisions which regulate specifically animal welfare, albeit animal health and welfare are linked. The Union has a well-developed acquis regarding animal welfare covering different species (broilers, laying hens, pigs, calves) or activities (farming, transport, slaughter, research, etc.). This animal welfare legislation will necessarily continue to apply. The Commission is fully committed to paying full regard to animal welfare in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty and within the limits set out therein, including ensuring full implementation and appropriate development of this legislation.”*

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<sup>6</sup> COM (2011) 748