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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Strengthening One Health cross sectorial collaboration regarding zoonotic health threats

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 26 June 2023.

Strengthening One Health cross sectorial collaboration regarding zoonotic health threats

The need for a strong and effective cross-sectoral collaboration to address common health challenges is increasing, and the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and antimicrobial resistance are examples of threats in the human-animal interface. The recent development of highly pathogenic avian influenzas in mammals further highlights the importance of cross-sectoral preparedness. Preventive measures for improved animal health have long been a high priority issue for Sweden, as well as a sector-wide commitment against antimicrobial resistance.

At a global level, the awareness of One Health is increasing, and important initiatives are taken. The European Union also needs to be prepared for future One Health challenges. To help identify gaps and strengthen the collaboration between sectors in the EU the Swedish Presidency invited experts in public and animal health to the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) for a full-day meeting dedicated to the exchange of best practices on managing cross-border health threats.

At the meeting, updated information was given on activities and priorities from the EU Commission and EU authorities as well as from representatives from international organisations and fruitful discussions were held on main challenges and paths to success.

The meeting was very appreciated and successful and showed that the cooperation between sectors often works to a large extent. Several good examples from Member States were presented and the discussions demonstrated that there are both a will and opportunities to further boost cross sectorial collaborations to deal with common threats to both animal and human health. Some aspects were lifted as significant for a continuous and strengthened One Health collaboration between sectors such as:

- Equal financial commitments and terms,
- Information and data sharing between stakeholders,
- Appropriate administrative structures, as well as clear and coordinated governance,
- Education and training of new professionals in One Health,
- Shared prioritization between sectors regarding disease surveillance.