



**COUNCIL OF  
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**NOTE**

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from : General Secretariat

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to : Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers

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Subject : ***CVO CONCLUSIONS on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)***

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Further to the seminar and discussions at the CVO Working Party meeting in Antwerp on 29 September and 1 October 2010, delegations will find in the Annex the final text of the CVO conclusions on Antimicrobial Resistance, as adopted at the CVO Working Party meeting on 20 October 2010.

**CVO CONCLUSIONS**  
**On Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

The *Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers*, on the occasion of its meeting in Antwerp on 29 September 2010, held a seminar on the topic "Can further spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria from food producing animals be halted?"

In the light of the presentations given by EFSA, other scientists and stakeholders,

RECALLING

- Council Conclusions of 14 December 1999 on future actions in the framework of the strategy against antimicrobial resistance (doc 13920/99),
- Council Conclusions of 9-10 June 2008 on Antimicrobial Resistance (doc. 9637/08),
- World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) Recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance,
- Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005);

and CONSIDERING in particular:

- the growing awareness about the increase of AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from animals and food in the EU in the framework of the "One Health" strategy
- the dependence of an effective response not only on the medical and veterinary fields, but also on contributions from many sectors of society
- the absence of comparable data on the quantities of antibiotics used for animals
- the incomplete knowledge of AMR epidemiology
- the ongoing measures at Member States' and EU level to improve monitoring of AMR
- inappropriate and excessive use of antibiotics for animals as one of the factors leading to the increase of AMR
- the varying situations and different approaches in Member States regarding the prescription and distribution of veterinary medical products

- that within the framework of international law, it is relevant to acknowledge
  - the need for a level playing field between the EU and third country producers concerning the EU standards which recognise that consumers' demands and any societal concerns (such as quality, health, environment and animal welfare) are met; and therefore
  - the need for promotion of these standards in international negotiations, thus strengthening the European Union's role as an important player in the establishment of international rules;

**the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers**

- a. EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN about the observed increase of AMR in bacteria, also in the light of its proven cross-species transmissibility and its propagation;
- b. TAKES NOTE of the need for additional scientific research to better understand the full set of factors leading to AMR and to investigate the development of alternative strategies to prevent or treat infectious disease that are economically viable;
- c. CONFIRMS in this context the urgent need to complete an EU-wide harmonised system to monitor the use of antimicrobials and therefore WELCOMES the current efforts by EMEA to establish such a system;
- d. RECOGNIZES the need to harmonize the detection methods for antimicrobial resistance and for residues of critically important antibiotics according to the WHO;
- e. REALISES the need to keep any future measures cost-effective, risk-based and sustainable;
- f. ACKNOWLEDGES the need for a multi-disciplinary approach towards responsible use requiring both awareness and commitment from all stakeholders, including the pharmaceutical industry, veterinarians, farmers, the meat industry and retailers, as well as pet animal owners;
- g. DEEMS it important that the use of critically important antimicrobials, including the possible restriction of some of them to the treatment as a last resort of serious infections in humans, be subject to well-defined and science-based criteria;

- h. UNDERLINES the importance of a closer cooperation between animal and human health sectors, at national and European level;
- i. CONSIDERS that the possible package of voluntary and regulatory measures could include in particular the following
- strict enforcement of the existing regulatory framework against inappropriate and excessive use of antimicrobials
  - minimising preventive use of antimicrobials
  - reducing infectious load at farm level by appropriate biosecurity and livestock management measures and in recurrent disease problems promoting the development of alternative strategies to prevent or treat infectious disease
  - monitoring on farm level use of antibiotics
  - ensuring that cascade use is reduced to exceptional cases
  - elaboration and implementation by the representative European stakeholders (e.g. FVE) of appropriate and agreed guidelines for responsible use of antibiotics in different species,
  - promoting best practices in animal husbandry
  - communication, education and training
  - continuing work towards identifying risk factors in each sector concerned;
- j. INVITES the Commission to take these considerations into account in its relevant initiatives and to establish a comprehensive strategy on AMR;
- k. DEEMS it important to closely monitor progress in these efforts and INTENDS to revisit the question at regular intervals.
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