

**Question for written answer E-009052/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Tackling antibiotics resistance

Antibiotics have revolutionised the treatment of infectious diseases. At the same time, however, their use and misuse have resulted in the development and spread of antibiotic resistance, causing treatment failures and, consequently, more severe and longer-lasting diseases, increased hospitalisation rates, more deaths and higher costs to society.

The magnitude of the problem is illustrated by the fact that each year in the European Union alone, over 25 000 people die from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance is also a food safety problem: the use of antibiotics in food animals – for treatment, disease prevention or growth promotion – allows resistant bacteria and resistance genes to spread from food animals to humans through the food-chain.

This demands action. Tackling antibiotic resistance requires a holistic, intersectoral and multifaceted approach, with effective coordination of action, and with exchanges of information among the agricultural, food, veterinary and health sectors. Efforts should focus on reducing the unnecessary use of antibiotics and regulating the use of antibiotics in food animals.

What measures have the European Union already taken, and what others should be taken in the near future, to encourage Member States to adopt national approaches to tackle the issue of antibiotic resistance and promote knowledge, and raise awareness, about it?