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## Plenary sitting

1.3.2011 B7-000/2011

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to Question for Oral Answer B7-000/2011 pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure on Antibiotic Resistance

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on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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#### B7-000/2011

### **European Parliament resolution on Antibiotic Resistance**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 22 May 2008 on a new animal health strategy for the European Union 2007-2013 (P6 TA(2008)0235),
- having regard to its resolution of 5 May 2010 on an evaluation and assessment of the Animal Welfare Action Plan 2006-2010 (P7\_TA(2010)0130),
- having regard to Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents and Regulation 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- having regard to the Joint Opinion on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) focused on zoonotic infections by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Medicines Agency (EMEA), and the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR), EFSA Journal 2009; 7(11):1372,
- having regard to Oral Question (O-XX/2011 B7-000/2011) of XX 2011 on AMR,
- having regard to Rules 115(5) and 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, since antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses as serious threat in particular to young animals, the European livestock sector is facing a serious and increasing problem;
- B. whereas, since almost half of the antibiotics in Europe today are presumed to be prescribed for use in animals and AMR is identical in humans and animals, this is a truly cross-cutting matter which calls for a coordinated approach at community level;
- C. whereas routine use of antimicrobials in animals generally is to be considered a risk factor for the emergence of resistance;
- D. whereas the use of biocides may also contribute to AMR;
- E. whereas chemical decontamination of carcases of slaughter may also contribute to AMR;
- F. whereas food is emerging as an important vector for transmitting AMR;
- G. whereas non food-producing animals, such as companion animals, may also serve as reservoirs and facilitate the transmission of AMR, recalling the extra label use of antimicrobial drugs intended for human medical use;
- H. whereas a modern animal husbandry without the possibility to use any antibiotics to treat





- diseases seems unfeasible today, a good animal health and a rational use of antibiotics would contribute to the prevention of the spread of AMR;
- I. whereas the European Parliament in its resolution of 5 May 2010 on an evaluation and assessment of the Animal Welfare Action Plan 2006-2010, underlined the link between animal welfare, animal health and public health and urged the Commission and the Member States to address the growing problem of AMR in animals in a responsible manner;
- J. whereas, in particular, the European Parliament called on the Commission to collect and analyse data on the use of animal health products, including antibiotics, with a view to ensuring the effective use of such products.

#### Joint data collection activities

- 1. Welcomes the efforts made by the Commission and its agencies as regards joint data collection activities in this field, in particular the initiative in 2009 to create ESVAC (European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption); regrets that not all Member States have yet joined the ESVAC network; calls on the Commission to provide the ESVAC network with sufficient financial resources to perform its tasks;
- 2. Recognises that the proper collection and analysis of comparable data as regards the sales of veterinary agents and the subsequent use of such products on animals is an important first step; stresses the need to get a full picture of when, where, how and on which animals the antimicrobials are actually used today, without creating additional financial or administrative burdens for farmers or other animal owners;
- 3. Underlines that data must not only be collected, it must also be properly analysed and the findings put in practice;

#### Research

- 4. Calls for research into an antimicrobial free animal production, consequently more research to be performed on other alternatives (vaccination, bio security, breeding for resistance) and evidence based strategies to avoid and control infectious diseases in animals; stresses in this context the importance of developing good systems for animal husbandry which reduce the need for antibiotics to be prescribed to negligible amounts;
- 5. Calls for the research resources from the human and the veterinary side to be better coordinated, by creating a network of existing research institutes;

#### Monitoring and surveillance

6. Calls on all Member States to perform regular systematic surveillance and monitoring of AMR in both food producing animals and companion animals, without creating additional financial or administrative burdens for farmers or other animal owners; stresses the need for harmonised data, including information on risk factors, to be easily available from a single access point;

- 7. Calls on the future budgets for the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to reflect the increased need for further inspections and analyses in this field;
- 8. Calls on all stakeholders to acknowledge their responsibility for preventing both the development and the spread of AMR, each in their own area of activity such as veterinary medicine and animal husbandry;
- 9. Suggests that harmonised monitoring of AMR in indicator bacteria (as *E.coli*) should be made mandatory for live animals and meat;

#### Maintained efficiency of antibiotics

- 10. Emphasises that the ultimate objective is to maintain antibiotics as an effective tool to combat disease, both in animals and in humans;
- 11. Calls for a prudent use of antimicrobials in animals and for more training and information to veterinarians and farmers on strategies to minimise the development of AMR;
- 12. Calls for the establishment of good practices for animal husbandry, including tolerable conditions for animal transports, which minimise the risk for AMR;
- 13. Calls on the Commission to include a broad multi-annual action plan against AMR in the next EU strategy on animal welfare (2011-2015); believes that such an action plan should cover all animals, including companion animals, and emphasise the logical connection between animal welfare and the use of antibiotics, as well as the link between animal welfare and human health;
- 14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

