



29.11.2017

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0328/2017 by A.K. (German) on behalf of the association ‘Artgerechte Tiergesundheit e.V.’, on rules on homeopathic and naturopathic medicines

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner states that the legal framework for veterinary medicinal products contains provisions that, in future, will hinder the use of homeopathic and naturopathic medicines. Although, according to the petitioner, the objective of curbing the use of antibiotics in animals is being pursued, naturopathic practices have been made subject to needless red tape and major restrictions, resulting in considerable increases in costs for livestock owners and seriously disadvantaging alternative veterinary practitioners and organic farmers.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 30 August 2017. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 29 November 2017

The Commission's observations

The Commission proposal revising the legislation on veterinary medicines adopted in September 2014 is currently in the course of the ordinary legislative procedure. The co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) are still considering the provisions included in that proposal.

The Commission proposed a number of provisions related to the specific use of homeopathic veterinary medicines (the Commission did not propose any provisions regarding the use of herbal veterinary medicines). In its proposal, the Commission included a simplified

registration procedure for homeopathic veterinary medicines, which would enable easier placing of such products on the EU market.

The European Parliament adopted its report in March 2016, with a number of amendments regarding the use of homeopathic veterinary medicines and herbals.

The Council is currently discussing the proposal at working group level and should agree on a consolidated text before the end of 2017.

It is expected that the negotiations between the co-legislators will start at the beginning of 2018.

Conclusion

One of the main objectives of the Commission proposal on veterinary medicines is to reduce the administrative burden and to increase the availability of medicines in the EU, including homeopathic veterinary medicines. In that regard, the Commission will do its utmost during the negotiations to take into consideration the elements that would allow the achievement of these objectives.