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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on a European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance
(AMR)
(2017/2254(INI))

Rapporteur: Matt Carthy

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical global health issue that requires proactive, coordinated action; underlines the importance of taking a holistic approach to tackling AMR through the one-health approach, by ensuring coherence and coordination between human health, animal health and the environment;
2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take an ambitious approach to ensuring that the targets set out in their respective Action Plans are fully and effectively achieved, and to strictly monitor the results that have been achieved;
3. Calls for legislative solutions that will assist farmers in reducing the use of antibiotics in livestock farming, with the aim of prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials; insists that such legislative solutions must address prophylactic and metaphylactic use;
4. Calls for further research and development into new antimicrobials and encourages alternatives to be investigated, including the development of more sustainable farming systems based on less intensive farming models;
5. Stresses that disease prevention must be the first step for legislation tackling AMR in agriculture, both to ensure a high standard of animal welfare and reduce the need to resort to antibiotics; believes that antibiotics should never be used as compensation for poor hygiene or inadequate animal husbandry;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure adequate funding for on-farm investments, such as in quality housing, ventilation, cleaning, disinfection, vaccination and bio-security;
7. Emphasises the crucial role of education and training programmes in raising awareness about antimicrobial resistance and the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine for farmers and those involved in livestock farming;
8. Underlines the need to change the business culture employed by veterinary medicine producers, which encourages the use and overuse of certain medicines in order to generate profits;
9. Notes that the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in food-producing animals has been banned in the EU since 2006; calls on the Commission to enforce this ban as a conditionality to all food imports from third countries through Free Trade Agreements;
10. Stresses that international cooperation involving sharing information, knowledge and best practices in tackling AMR is crucial in the context of the one-health approach for the benefit of human and animal health globally.