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*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

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**2012/2041(INI)**

15.10.2012

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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

on the Microbial Challenge – Rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance  
(2012/2041(INI))

Rapporteur: Martin Häusling

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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 in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that, although the Commission's action plan goes in the right direction, it does not go far enough to contain the rising global threat from antimicrobial resistance; considers that the measures recommended in the action plan need to be implemented as soon as possible; calls, therefore, on the Commission for an integrated roadmap outlining relevant policy responses, including possible legislative action;
2. Underlines that the action plan should cover all animals under the EU animal welfare strategy, including, for instance, companion animals and animals used for sports, and should emphasise the logical connection between animal health and the use of antimicrobials, as well as the link between animal health and human health;
3. Agrees that a holistic approach is needed that is based on prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials, and on continuous improvements to biosecurity and animal husbandry systems that promote good animal health, allow animals to express species-specific behaviour, minimise disease occurrence and limit disease transmission, thus reducing the need for antimicrobials to be prescribed;
4. Calls for the introduction of reliable approaches to effecting a significant decrease in resistance when rearing animals; notes that particular attention should be paid to the rearing of young animals, as they often come from different breeders and are therefore exposed to a risk of infection when brought together;
5. Calls for more and better-coordinated research on new antimicrobials, on other alternatives (vaccination, biosecurity, breeding for resistance) and on evidence-based strategies to avoid and control infectious diseases in animals;
6. Suggests that research, innovation, better communication and better education and professional training with regard to the use of antimicrobials be promoted;
7. Proposes to promote sustainable livestock systems based on good management practices maximising the efficient use of resources and reducing farmers' dependency on costly and unsustainable inputs that pose a high risk to the environment and to public health;
8. Agrees with the Commission that the regulatory framework for veterinary medicines and medicated feed needs strengthening, and demands consistency in the EU rules and their enforcement;
9. Points out that the use of antimicrobials in sub-therapeutic levels is prohibited in the EU;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure implementation of the ban, adopted in 2006, on the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in the Member States;
11. Is of the view that the main objective of farmers should be to implement suitable rearing

methods, in order to keep their cattle healthy and productive, and to safeguard their wellbeing; stresses, however, that the proper use of antibiotics in animal husbandry is necessary in order to ensure animal wellbeing;

12. Points out that antimicrobial resistance in animals differs between species and between different forms of animal husbandry;
13. Emphasises that the ultimate objective is to maintain antimicrobials as an effective tool to combat disease, both in animals and in humans, while strictly keeping the use of antimicrobials to the minimum necessary; proposes, therefore, that the use for livestock of antimicrobials classified by the WHO as critically important for human treatment be limited and gradually phased out;
14. Notes the importance of vaccines in limiting disease and in reducing antimicrobial use within the context of good husbandry practices; believes that vaccines should not be a substitute for good husbandry or appropriate biosecurity measures, and that veterinary surgeons should only administer antibiotics where there is good reason to do so;
15. Calls on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to give special attention to monitoring and analysing the situation as regards antimicrobial resistance in livestock across the EU;
16. Calls for a prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animals, and for more information to veterinarians and farmers helping them to minimise the development of antimicrobial resistance; calls for the exchange of best practices, that can serve as important tools to combat the development of antimicrobial resistance, such as the adoption of guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials;
17. Calls for continued efforts to ensure that antimicrobials are only used in both veterinary and human medicine where such use can be justified;
18. Stresses that sound information on the use of antimicrobials in some Member States is lacking, and that transparent, coherent and consistent data are needed;
19. Calls on the Member States to use electronic recording systems to ensure that usage patterns on individual farms are appropriate, thus ensuring responsible and minimal use;
20. Recalls that, in its resolution of 12 May 2011 on antibiotic resistance, it stressed the need to get a full picture of when, where, how and on which animals antimicrobials are used, and believes that such data should be collected, analysed and made public by the Commission without delay, and that the data collected should be harmonised and made comparable in order to allow proper analysis and effective, co-ordinated, species-specific action, tailored to different types of animal husbandry, in order to combat antimicrobial resistance on both EU and Member State level;
21. Calls on the Commission to include in its progress report on the implementation of the antimicrobial resistance action plan an overview of the reductions achieved by each Member State in the use of veterinary antimicrobials;

22. Calls on the Commission to oblige the Member States to monitor the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry more efficiently and in an integrated way through the use of databases; points out that registering the use of antibiotics on farms is obligatory;
23. Calls on the Commission to take all actions needed to ensure a broad and effective diagnostic system at Member State level, and thereby ensure the timely delivery of results when bacteriological examinations are performed;
24. Calls on the Member States to ensure separate monitoring and control of resistance among livestock, domestic animals, racing animals, etc., and to do so without causing additional financial or administrative burdens for farmers, breeders or veterinarians;
25. Is of the view that data gathered on the use of antibiotics should be made accessible only to the experts, authorities and decision-makers concerned.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	11.10.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 35 -: 1 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	John Stuart Agnew, Eric Andrieu, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Diane Dodds, Herbert Dorfmann, Robert Dušek, Mariya Gabriel, Iratxe García Pérez, Julie Girling, Béla Glattfelder, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnès Le Brun, George Lyon, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Mairead McGuinness, James Nicholson, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Georgios Papastamkos, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Alfreds Rubiks, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris, Alyn Smith, Janusz Wojciechowski
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Alejandro Cercas, Ismail Ertug, Petri Sarvamaa