Question for written answer E-002827/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Stepping up the fight against antibiotic resistance

Pathogens develop more easily in factory farms due to the concentration of animals and the fact that they are genetically standardised. This leads to an increased use of antibiotics and, in turn, the targeted bacteria become more resistant to the medicines used.

This resistance to antibiotics is then passed on to the end consumers of the meat products: humans. In fact, 80% of antibiotics are used for both human and animal health care.

In France, the 'Écoantibio' plans have reduced the use of antibiotics on farms by 47% in 10 years.

The techniques used to effectively combat antibiotic resistance are well known:

– vaccinate animals;

– limit livestock densities and improve ventilation;

– stop specialisation by territory;

– reduce genetic standardisation and cloning;

– develop phage therapy (the use of bacteriophage viruses);

– develop thermal cameras (to detect infections);

– reserve certain antibiotics for human infections;

– address the problem of vet deserts.

1. In the context of its revision of Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, will the Commission work on further developing these techniques?

2. Will it impose identical requirements on imported meat products?

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