

## Building a healthier society by tackling antimicrobial resistance

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

### Applauds:

- the lead taken by the European Union on legislation in 2006 banning the use of antibiotics for growth promotion in animal feed; the publication of results of an EU-wide survey on MRSA (so called "hospital bugs") in pigs in 2009; and the directions in 2014 on how to carry out sampling and hazard recognition;
- the European Food Safety Authority Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) which has done an important job of protecting consumers in Europe from risks related to the food chain and to establishing the best control options to reduce risks;
- the important contribution to work being carried out at European level as the European Commission develops its proposals further for action to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

### Notes that:

- it is estimated, according to the O'Neill Report from May 2016, that globally 10 million people will die every year because of AMR by 2050;
- according to the same report, it is estimated that the economic impact of AMR would lead to a reduction of 2% to 3.5% in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) globally. It would cost the world up to \$100 trillion;
- leaders at the UN meeting on 21 September 2016 called on WHO, FAO and OIE, in collaboration with development banks such the World Bank other relevant stakeholders, to coordinate their planning and actions on AMR and to report back to the UN General Assembly in September 2018;
- livestock and poultry receive antibiotics for various reasons besides illness, including preventing disease ('disease prophylaxis') in individual animals or a herd;
- the current legislation on veterinary medicines, which is currently under revision, does not provide assurance that risks to human health arising from the use of antibiotics in animals are effectively managed;
- reducing use of antibiotics while choosing alternative strategies to ensure animal health can lead to potential savings;
- the misuse of antimicrobials, including antibiotics, and in particular their systematic and excessive use is one of the main causes of AMR;

### Resolution:

Building a healthier society by tackling antimicrobial resistance

### Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

### Category:

Energy and Environment

### Page:

1

- the same classes of antibiotics are used in both animal and human medicine and similar resistance mechanisms have emerged in both sectors;
- the three sister agencies EFSA, ECDC and EMA concluded in a joint report of 2015 that the use of certain antimicrobials in animals and humans is linked with the occurrence of resistance to these antimicrobials;
- development and introduction into clinical practice of new antibiotics are not matching the rate of increasing AMR;
- community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin is an essential next step to guard against AMR;
- the European Commission Health and Consumers Directorate expert group agreed environmental and residue violation events should be better covered but no EU-wide alternatives exist;
- before an animal treated with antimicrobials is allowed to be slaughtered for meat, there is a withdrawal period varying across products and species.

### **Understands that:**

- while farmers use antibiotics in animal production, this should not translate into consumers eating those antibiotics when they eat meat;
- infections caused by AMR bacteria are likely to result in increased costs for medical healthcare sectors in European countries;
- research and new business models for creation of new antimicrobial drugs to be of utmost importance;
- there is a need of greater coordination between WHO, FAO and OIE to improve awareness and identify knowledge gaps of combatting AMR policy recommendations must be based on sound scientific evidence and risk analysis principles;
- in order to balance consumer protection, animal health, welfare and trade requirements on antibiotic residues in food, a more consistent approach to the risk analysis and control of antibiotic residues in food produced in or imported into the European Union.

### **Calls for:**

- European countries to implement the WHO action plan on AMR;
- the implementation of the Transatlantic Taskforce Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR) Agreement Recommendations (and as previously put forward by the EU Action Plan Road Map Report 2015);
- a new unbureaucratic legal framework for harmonised monitoring of AMR in zoonotic (and commensal) bacteria in the food chain;

### **Resolution:**

Building a healthier society by tackling antimicrobial resistance

### **Year and Congress:**

Warsaw, Poland 2016

### **Category:**

Energy and Environment

### **Page:**

2

- a harmonised, proportionate pharmacovigilance Europe-wide surveillance system and database based in principle on the active substance; states should be able to continue using their own databases for signal detection in a harmonised system;
- measures to address the lack of data on AMR and antimicrobial consumption in children;
- more robust evidence to permit implementation of risk management measures regarding AMR;
- European countries to increase research and development activities which aims at providing new tools to fight bacterial infections;
- European countries to increase the level of cooperation with regard to patient safety and combating AMR, in order to limit and reduce the spread of resistant microorganisms;
- greater attention, new incentives and new economic models for the development of new antimicrobial agents;
- all European countries to improve information sharing and awareness raising of AMR amongst all sectors as human- and veterinary medicine, agriculture, food safety, environment and consumers;
- all European countries to develop and implement national strategies and action plans for countering AMR;
- performance indicators to assist countries towards increased information flow and transparency in their use of antimicrobials;
- all European countries to enforce and uphold stringent regulations on self-medication with antibiotics and stresses the necessity of a 'prescription only' policy for anti-bacterials by the national competent medical authorities;
- the responsible stewardship in human medicine of all antimicrobial agents and in particular of antibiotics that are considered to be last-line treatment of bacterial infections in hospitals;
- European countries to implement best practice in animal husbandry with an aim of creating systems where animals stay healthy without excessive use of antibiotics;
- all European countries to promote and foster the responsible and sensible use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine, including medicated feed;
- a phase-out of the routine prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock and fish-farming sectors in all European countries, and that the prophylactic use of antimicrobial veterinary medicines shall only be permitted by the relevant authorities;
- all European countries to restrict the right to prescribe antibiotics to qualified veterinarians and to remove incentives to over-prescribe antibiotics;
- all European countries to support mandatory recording of the quantities of all antimicrobials used in livestock farming, to be communicated to

**Resolution:**

Building a healthier society by tackling antimicrobial resistance

**Year and Congress:**

Warsaw, Poland 2016

**Category:**

Energy and Environment

**Page:**

3

the competent national authorities and made public by them on an annual basis.

**Is convinced that:**

- information on the sales and usage of antimicrobials in the veterinary sector; more science-based measures regarding the management of AMR will lead to a positive impact on public and animal health.

**Resolution:**

Building a healthier society by tackling antimicrobial resistance

**Year and Congress:**

Warsaw, Poland 2016

**Category:**

Energy and Environment

**Page:**

4