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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**EU COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON STEPPING UP EU ACTIONS TO COMBAT
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN A ONE HEALTH APPROACH**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The following document, received on 12 July 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

1. On 13 June 2023, the Council of the European Union adopted a Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a One Health approach. The Council Recommendation extends and complements the 2017 EU One Health Action Plan against AMR¹ by providing recommendations to the European Commission and to member States in order to maximize synergies and to attain a strong and effective response against AMR across the European Union.
2. The recommendation employs a 'One Health' approach to AMR, based on the fact that the health of humans, animals and the environment is intrinsically linked and that AMR can only be overcome through joint efforts taken across all three areas.
3. One of the main objectives of this Recommendation is to foster a prudent use of antimicrobials, such as antibiotics in human and animal health, through a series of voluntary measures, with the aim of reducing the risk that microorganisms will become resistant to medical intervention. Therefore, it recommends concrete targets to reduce antimicrobial use by 2030, including a 20% reduction in total human consumption of antibiotics in addition to the 50% reduction in overall EU sales of antimicrobials used for farm animals and aquaculture already set up in the Farm to Fork Strategy.²
4. In addition, the Recommendation aims to boost national One Health action plans on AMR, improve infection prevention and control, foster research and innovation, incentivise innovation and access to antimicrobials and other medical countermeasures, reinforce surveillance and monitoring of AMR and antimicrobial consumption, and improve public awareness, education, and training of professionals.
5. To enhance global cooperation, the Recommendation encourages advocacy for AMR to feature as a high political priority for international organisations and in global settings, such as the G7, the G20, the Transatlantic Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, and the World Health Organization international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.
6. More information:
 - a. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3187.

¹ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-01/amr_2017_action-plan_0.pdf.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0381>.