

## **IFAH-Europe Supports Transparency of Use of Animal Medicines** *Welcomes Third ESVAC Report*

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**Brussels, 15 October 2013** - IFAH-Europe supports the concept of transparency of antibiotic use in animals in line with Action n° 10 from the European Commission's Action Plan Against the Rising Threats from Antimicrobial Resistance - strengthen surveillance systems on AMR and antimicrobial consumption in animal medicine – and welcomes the third ESVAC report as a major stepping stone towards an efficient and rational surveillance process.

IFAH-Europe firmly supports the principle of collecting data as a means of informing decision-making and the work of ESVAC has been invaluable in initiating a process for transparency across the EU. It is a great achievement to have data from 25 countries included in the third report and we hope that the continued support of our members has facilitated this expansion.

As the report states, comparisons across countries should be done with great care until the data can be broken down by species and until the differences in dose rates are accounted for. It is interesting to note that overall in the 25 countries sales of tetracyclines, penicillins and sulfonamides accounted for more than 71% of the total sales in 2011. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and macrolides make up 0.2%, 1.6% and 8% of total antibiotic sales, respectively.

Whilst this year's report highlights the fact that a large number of countries have recorded a decline in volumes, it is important to note that the overall goal of such data collection should remain the continued promotion of Responsible Use of medicines in animals and interventions to ensure best practices where necessary. Alongside good biosecurity, appropriate housing, good nutrition, herd health programmes, vaccination programmes, and all use of antibiotics under the prescription of a veterinarian, IFAH-Europe steadfastly supports the EPRUMA ([www.epruma.eu](http://www.epruma.eu)) watchword in terms of medicine use in animals: *As little as possible, as much as necessary*.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** [IFAH-Europe](http://www.ifaheurope.org) is the representative body of manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in Europe. It promotes a single market in veterinary medicines across the EU ensuring the availability of medicines to protect the health and welfare of animals.

The [ESVAC](http://www.esvac.eu) (European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption) project collects information on how antimicrobial medicines are used in animals across the European Union.

[EPRUMA](http://www.epruma.eu) is a multi-stakeholder platform promoting the responsible use of medicines in animals in the EU in order to maintain efficacy and both prevent and minimise adverse reactions.

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