



European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**European Parliament shows strong support for the responsible use of veterinary medicines**

**Brussels, 11 March 2016** – EPRUMA welcomes the European Parliament's vote of yesterday on the proposal for a Regulation on veterinary medicinal products, which recognises that the responsible use of veterinary medicines goes hand in hand with good animal husbandry. EPRUMA partners will continue to advance their common agenda to increase awareness, understanding and implementation of the best animal health practices including responsible use across the EU for the benefit of animal health and welfare, as well as public health.

According to EPRUMA, the responsible use of veterinary medicines is based on a holistic approach of minimising disease. This includes a wide choice of tools such as biosecurity, good housing and ventilation, good hygiene, appropriate nutrition and robust animals, regular monitoring of animal health and welfare, animal health planning, use of diagnostics, vaccination and using and maintaining the pharmacovigilance system when necessary, as well as the use of veterinary medicines, as required by law. Since 2005 EPRUMA has worked collectively to ensure that all veterinary medicines including antibiotics are used responsibly, i.e. under veterinary care, according to licensing conditions, and with diagnostics guiding the antibiotic choice as much as possible.

EPRUMA firmly believes that antibiotics should be used 'As little as possible, as much as necessary' and recently published an updated version of its 'Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals' providing recommendations to ensure good animal health and welfare. This is available on [www.epruma.eu](http://www.epruma.eu)

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**Notes for editors:**

EPRUMA is a multi-stakeholder platform linking best practice with animal health and public health. It aims to ensure best practice through responsible use of medicines in the prevention and control of animal diseases.

**EPRUMA partners:**

- COPA-COGECA: European Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives
- EGGVP: European Group for Generic Veterinary Products
- EISA: European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
- EMVD: European Manufacturers of Veterinary Diagnostics
- FECAVA: Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations
- FEFAC: European Feed Manufacturers Federation
- FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
- FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
- IFAH-EUROPE: International Federation for Animal Health-Europe

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- PGEU: Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union

Associate partners (National Responsible Use platforms):

- AMcRA: Centre for Expertise on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Animals (Belgium)
- RUMA: Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (United Kingdom)
- SDA: Veterinary Medicines Authority (The Netherlands)
- VETRESPONSABLE: Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (Spain)

Key EPRUMA publications:

- Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals (2008):  
<http://www.epruma.eu/component/downloads/downloads/95.html> (available in 12 languages)
- Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals – Reaching for the next level (2015): <http://www.epruma.eu/publications/brochures.html>
- Veterinary medicinal product terminology (2013): A widely referenced document across the EU containing terms such as: antimicrobials - antibiotics; treatment: curative - prophylaxis - metaphylaxis; veterinary prescription and POM; responsible use  
<http://www.epruma.eu/component/downloads/downloads/76.html>

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