



European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Veterinary medicines regulation: medicines availability
and responsible use go hand in hand, EPRUMA says**

Brussels, 18 February 2016 – EPRUMA partners welcome the European Parliament Environment and Public Health Committee’s efforts to ensure an increased availability of veterinary medicines and support innovation in animal health. The availability and responsible use of medicines are intertwined, and EPRUMA partners continue to work together to disseminate and encourage the implementation of best practice in the use of all veterinary medicines including antibiotics.

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 works 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

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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
- PGEU: Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union

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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 publication:

- 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>

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