



European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

Rens van Dobbenburgh  
EPRUMA Chairman

Ref.: RvD-002\_2018

**Isabel de la Mata Barranco**

Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis Management  
European Commission DG SANTE  
11, rue Eugène Ruppert  
L-2453 Luxembourg s

Brussels, 15 March 2018

Dear Madam,

**Subject: Public consultation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases**

EPRUMA welcomes DG SANTE's initiative to strengthen EU citizens' awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and notices that the current public consultation on 'Strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases' does not cover vaccination in veterinary medicine, an essential element of a One Health approach.

#### **Vaccination hesitation and public awareness**

Vaccination hesitation is a trend in veterinary practice, and public awareness of the benefits of animal vaccination is limited.

However, vaccines are instrumental to prevent and control a wide range of animal diseases including those that can pass from animals to people (zoonoses), e.g. rabies, listeria and salmonella. Equally, the vaccination of farm animals contributes to public health as healthy animals provide safe food. Additionally, vaccination, as part of an overall animal health plan, helps prevent disease and minimises the need for antibiotic use, contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance, and supports sustainable livestock production. EPRUMA firmly promotes vaccination as a tool for ensuring animal health, supporting animal welfare, and contributing to food safety and public health.

#### **One Health strategy**

Vaccination is an indispensable tool for all health professionals including veterinarians. We call on the EU institutions

- to support research and innovation for veterinary vaccines
- to increase their availability in all Member States for all species, including minor ones, and
- to increase public awareness of the benefits of animal vaccination as part of a One Health strategy.

#### **About EPRUMA**

EPRUMA, the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, EPRUMA is a multi-stakeholder platform linking best practice with animal health and public health. It aims to promote the responsible use of medicines in animals in the EU. For further details, visit [www.epruma.eu](http://www.epruma.eu)

#### **EPRUMA**

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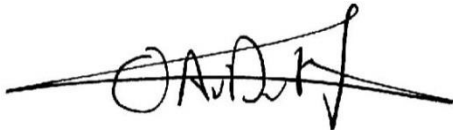
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We look forward to discussing our views with DG SANTE in the context of this consultation. Please let us know about the follow up of the consultation and any initiative stemming from it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rens van Dobbenburgh', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Rens van Dobbenburgh**  
EPRUMA Chairman

Cc: Eva Zamora Escribano, Andrea Gavinelli and Koen Van Dyck