

## **IFAH-Europe Welcomes 4<sup>th</sup> ESVAC Report** *It supports concept of transparency at the use-phase of antibiotics*

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**Brussels, 15 October 2014** - IFAH-Europe welcomes the 4<sup>th</sup> ESVAC Report and appreciates the European Medicines Agency's efforts in continuing to gather these data on veterinary antimicrobial agents by class. 26 countries (EU and EEA) have been included and the data presented is from 2012. This represents some 95% of the food-producing animal population in these countries. From IFAH-Europe's point of view, this yearly report is important as it 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".

The principle of collecting data as a means of informing decision-making is highly important and fully supported by IFAH-Europe. The work of ESVAC has been invaluable in initiating a process for transparency across the EU. It is particularly good that the report now includes 26 countries and we hope that the continued support of our members has facilitated this expansion.

For Europe's Animal Health Industry it is essential to ensure the responsible use of antibiotics and transparency at the use-phase. Monitoring and transparency, as well as the promotion of education on what responsible use of antibiotic means, is vital to ensure their continued use in the future to safeguard the health of animals and people alike. IFAH-Europe also feels that reports such as ESVAC's play an important role in better-informed decision-making across Europe and it will help to identify the hotspots where more focus is needed towards ensuring responsible use of antibiotics.

This fourth ESVAC report again notes a decline in sales in 18 out of the 20 countries which provided data between 2010 and 2012, but it is nonetheless very 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 firmly supports EPRUMA ([www.epruma.eu](http://www.epruma.eu)) and its motto in terms of use of medicines in animals: *As little as possible, as much as necessary*.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** [IFAH-Europe](#) 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](#) (European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption) project collects information on how antimicrobial medicines are used in animals across the European Union.

[EPRUMA](#) 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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