

The Link between Animal Welfare, Public Health and Resistance to Antibiotics

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Helsinki, Finland, on 13-15 October 2010:

Whereas:

- There are many biological factors that are the same for all living creatures, especially within the class of mammals, to which most farmed animals as well as we ourselves belong;
- Animals and humans share a relatively similar immune system and a large number of pathogens;
- Pathogens that develop a resistance to antibiotics in animals can be transferred to humans, resulting in the spread of antibiotic-resistant diseases among humans;
- There is a link between animal husbandry, animal health and public health.

Considers:

- That the prophylactic use of antibiotics is a sign of poor health management of animals;
- The problem of antibiotic resistance is not limited to agricultural animals and that pets also need to be considered in this respect.

Is deeply concerned:

- By the acute problem of resistance to antibiotics in both animals and humans in Europe.

Calls upon:

- The European Commission to, where needed, urge national authorities to strengthen the control and monitoring of the use of antibiotics both on humans and animals within the European Union;
- The European Member States and European Parliament to ensure that the European Union budget provides sufficient funds for the effective and rigorous control of objectively measurable factors such as mortality rates and the use of antibiotics within the agricultural sector in Europe, preferably on a national level, so that financial and administrative costs are not borne by farmers;

Resolution:

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- European liberal and democratic parties to ensure that infractions against rules regarding animal welfare and the use of antibiotics result in noticeable sanctions.

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