



STELLA KYRIAKIDES
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels – Berl 10/380
stella.kyriakides@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 22 December 2021

Dear Honourable Members,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 18 November 2021, in which you and other Members of the European Parliament share your concern about possible non-compliances by Member States and EU animal producers with certain provisions of the new EU Regulations on veterinary medicines and medicated feed, which will apply as of 28 January 2022.

I would like to recall that, following four years of discussions between the co-legislators, the new EU Regulations were published on 7 January 2019 and entered into force twenty days following their publication. This has left already nearly three full years for Member States and relevant stakeholders to prepare and put all necessary measures in place for an efficient implementation of these new EU Regulations in due time. In February 2019 my predecessor Vytenis Andriukaitis already wrote to the relevant Ministers of all EU Member States asking them to dedicate sufficient efforts and allocate sufficient resources for the preparation phase and for the implementation phase itself of the new EU Regulations. In April this year, I personally wrote to the relevant Ministers, calling upon them to prepare effectively at national level for the upcoming changes and to ease the transition to the new legislative framework. I invited them to earmark adequate resources for the implementation of the new EU Regulations and to proceed with timely amendments to (or adoption of) national legislation or processes, as necessary. Finally, I use every opportunity I have, when meeting with the Member States or with relevant stakeholders, to remind them of the necessity to be ready by 28 January 2022, so that public health and animal health can be secured in accordance with the provisions set in the new EU Regulations.

This being said, as the application date of the new EU Regulations is approaching, I have asked my services to continue raising awareness among Member States and stakeholders.

I also wish to recall that the new EU Regulation on veterinary medicines allows for the Commission to carry out audits on the Member States' competent authorities for the purpose of confirming the appropriateness of the controls they are carrying out on a range of

stakeholders, including owners and keepers of food-producing animals and veterinarians. Audits are therefore a tool that will be used by the Commission to ensure compliance.

I would like to emphasise that the preservation of public health relies on the preservation of animal health, notably by ensuring food safety, preventing the development and spread of zoonoses, but also – as you rightfully underline – by keeping animals healthy, we avoid undue animal suffering and ensure animal welfare. I am convinced that more can be done to prevent infections from occurring in farmed animals, notably by improving vaccination, hygiene and biosecurity, but also animal husbandry practices. Technological developments should further support this transition towards more ‘health-oriented systems’. In addition, the upcoming revision of the EU animal welfare legislation will aim to increase animal welfare standards, which in turn will contribute to keeping animals healthier and to decreasing the need to use antimicrobials.

Please stay reassured that I continue to do my utmost to support the preservation of animal health and the further improvement of animal welfare, while fighting antimicrobial resistance.

I wish to thank you once again for your valuable input and for your support in combatting the ‘silent pandemic’ of antimicrobial resistance.

Yours sincerely,



Manuela Ripa, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Germany)
Anja Hazekamp, MEP (GUE/NGL Group, The Netherlands)
Sylwia Spurek, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Poland)
Sara Cerdas, MEP (S&D Group, Portugal)
Francisco Guerreiro, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Portugal)
Martin Buschmann, MEP (Non-attached Members, Germany)
Irena Joveva, MEP (Renew Europe Group, Slovenia)
Petras Auštrevičius, MEP (Renew Europe Group, Lithuania)
Piernicola Pedicini, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Italy)
Margrete Auken, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Denmark)
Sira Rego, MEP (GUE/NGL Group, Spain)
Manu Pineda, MEP (GUE/NGL Group, Spain)
Eleonora Evi, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Italy)
Ignazio Corrao, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Italy)
Tilly Metz, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Luxembourg)
Sarah Wiener, MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance Group, Austria)
Niels Fuglsang, MEP (S&D Group, Denmark)

