

EP endorses EU proposals for future feed additive legislation

Brussels, Belgium, 4 July 2003: On June 19th 2003, the European Parliament endorsed a proposal of the European Commission and Council to phase out usage of Antibiotic Growth Promoters in the European Union in 2006.

It is important to understand that, in doing this, the European Union does not ban the specific molecules (as some of them are licensed for other indications and will stay on the market), but the growth promotion usage of antibiotics.

As the far-reaching date indicates, it is clear that the 4 molecules – sodium monensin, sodium-salinomycin, flavophospholipol and avilamycin – do not pose any public health threat and can be used safely in the future, as they were in the past. The position of the European Union in this matter is based on societal concerns rather than on science, in spite of affirmations that this move is aimed at decreasing antibiotic resistance.

In the same amendment, the European Parliament has asked the Commission to review anticoccidials in view of a possible change of legal status within the European Union by 2013. IFAH-Europe is pleased that the European Parliament has indeed recognised the high importance of this category of products for animal health and welfare, and has moved away from an initial proposal that called for an earlier change in 2008.

Ends

Annex

Adopted Article 11 in the second hearing of the European Parliament

By way of derogation from Article 10 and without prejudice to Article 13, antibiotics, other than coccidiostats and histomonostats, may be marketed and used as feed additives only until 31 December 2005; as from 1 January 2006, those substances shall be deleted from the Register.

With a view to a decision on the phasing out of the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December 2012, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and Council a report before 1 January 2008 on the use of those substances as feed additives and available alternatives, accompanied, where appropriate, by legislative proposals.

Notes to Editors:

IFAH-Europe is the representative body of manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in Europe. It is a major operating division of a broader organisation – the International Federation for Animal Health, an international not for profit organisation registered under Belgian law.

For further information on IFAH and IFAH-Europe including a list of members please see <http://www.ifahsec.org/>

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