

IFAH-Europe Opposes Danish Antibiotic List

Brussels, Belgium, 21 December 2005: Representing the European Animal Health industry, IFAH-Europe strongly opposes the restrictive list of antibiotics for use in pig production as published today by a working group of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

“The professional veterinary surgeon is best placed to decide on the appropriate treatment in any given situation – this decision should not be hampered by a subjective list” stated Declan O’ Brien, Managing Director of IFAH-Europe.

The industry argues that it is totally unreasonable for a subjective list to restrict the use of a licensed medicine. Industry must satisfy the regulators that its products are safe and effective. Having done this, a license is issued indicating how the product may be used.

“Having satisfied the regulatory hurdles, industry cannot accept that licensed use of its products are restricted by a subjective list – such action undermines the EU regulatory system that the industry has confidence in and supports” stated Mr. O’ Brien.

Along with IFAH-Europe, the Danish Animal Health industry is totally opposed to the production of the list.

As a way forward, the restrictive list should be abandoned and up to date information should be circulated to veterinarians detailing the various products that should be used against a range of diseases. Such information would be useful to ensure that the most appropriate treatment is always chosen in any given situation.

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Antimicrobial products are required to treat animals and maintain their health and welfare. A judicious and sustainable use of antimicrobials is essential to preserve their efficacy in both animals and humans. The European Animal Health industry represented by IFAH-Europe is committed to these principles.

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Notes to Editors:

IFAH-Europe (International Federation for Animal Health Europe) is the federation representing manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in Europe and comprises 14 Member Companies and 16 National Associations throughout Europe.

For further information on IFAH-Europe, please visit <http://www.ifahsec.org/Europe>

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