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Motion from EU proposes tougher controls with antibiotics

In an attempt to reduce the demand and availability of new third- and fourth-generation antibiotics in the livestock-sector, the European Parliament's health committee has suggested tougher new controls in order to pay attention to animal health without the use of medicine.

According to one of the initiators, Danish conservative MEP Anna Rosbach, it is crucial to pay attention to the issue of antimicrobial resistance, as it may result in seriously damaging health problems in human beings.

The health committee has suggested that the right to prescribe antibiotics should only be given to professionally qualified veterinarians, as well as it should be ensured that antibiotics are used only on sick livestock in order to avoid flock medication.

In the near future, the motion will be brought up for discussion in the European Parliament's plenary session, where animal welfare laws including stocking density rules will be considered.

The discussion on antibiotics is also very relevant in the European Commission, which has recently suggested a 12-point programme with the purpose of reducing the usage of antibiotics.

Literature

- Global Meat News, EU call to clamp down on livestock antibiotics, November 12, 2012

- The Pig Site, Current antimicrobial use and resistance issues in the European Union – reality and resolution, November 23, 2012