



EU proposal to include an article on Anti-Microbial Resistance within the SPS Chapter of TTIP

Brussels, 6 November 2015

Background

With the strong support of Member States, EU has proposed to include an Article on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) in the SPS Chapter of TTIP. This is aimed at strong cooperation within the framework of TTIP on jointly reducing the use of antibiotics in animal production in order to combat the development of antibiotic resistance.

Both the European Commission and the Obama Administration in the US have a strong focus on the risks and challenges relating to AMR. The COM has an Action Plan (2011 – 2016) against the Rising Threats from AMR containing actions for implementation with Member States and key areas where measures are most needed. In 2015, the White House published a National Action Plan for Combatting Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. The EU and US are already collaborating on AMR under the Trans-Atlantic Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR). The work under TTIP would be seen as complementary to and facilitating this work.

Why is this important?

- Antibiotic resistance is a serious threat to human health, as well as to the health of food-producing animals. Combating the development of antibiotic resistance is a global, cross-border challenge for sustainable development.
- Antibiotic-resistant bacteria know no borders; they move between countries, species, food and equipment. Antibiotic resistance is driven by so many factors that single interventions to stop it will have little impact. Combating antibiotic resistance will require strong and sincere efforts and cooperation between many sectors in a ‘one health’ approach.
- A key factor in this fight is sustainable farming. Healthy animals should not receive antibiotics and here the agriculture sector has a very important role to play. Animal husbandry and agricultural practices should be conducted in a manner that does not endanger human health. We need to move away from any routine use of antibiotics that masks poor animal husbandry.
- The development of new antibiotics in the veterinary field is difficult and it is therefore in the best interests of food producers to preserve the effectiveness of

existing veterinary antibiotics. This is best achieved by a prudent use of antibiotics in animals. Sick animals must be guaranteed care and cure in the future as well.

- In January 2015 the OECD published a report that supports the need for action. The global consumption of antimicrobials in the animal sector is projected to increase by almost 70 % by 2030, according to this report.
- EU data suggests that within the EU, approximately 25,000 people die from infection due to antibiotic-resistant bacteria (data from 2007). The US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in US alone, "more than two million people are sickened every year with antibiotic-resistant infections, with at least 23.000 dying as a result" (data from 2009-2011).

Why in TTIP?

- The joint ambition of the EU and the US is to make TTIP the most ambitious and modern trade and investment agreement, and to pave the way for long-term sustainable development and trade conditions, maintaining high health and environmental protection standards.
- In this context, strong cooperation between the EU and the US on practices to combat the development of AMR, will play an important role for human and animal health.
- Through TTIP, the EU and the US should aim to strengthen their global leadership and influence in assuring conditions for sustainable production and promoting health standards. In many developing countries the use of antibiotics in animal production is increasing, as are problems related to the development of resistance.
- This is an important issue for civil society.
- The SPS Chapter is the chapter that most directly deals with animal production and veterinary practices, trade in animal products, food safety and animal health risks. This is why we are proposing the inclusion of this Article in the SPS Chapter.
- In TTIP we would like to create a joint EU-US task force ("technical working group") to reduce use of antibiotics in animal production to combat antibiotic resistance
- This task force would exchange best practices, develop common priorities e.g. harmonised system for collection of data on AMR, guidelines for vets, farmers etc. (see list under 2b of the article), and ensure EU-US cooperation in multilateral fora and towards third countries on this issue.

*This **TEXTUAL PROPOSAL** is the European Union's initial proposal for a legal text in TTIP. It was tabled for discussion with the US in the negotiating round of 19 - 23 October 2015 and made public on 6 November 2015. The actual text in the final agreement will be a result of negotiations between the EU and US.*

– **EU TEXTUAL PROPOSAL**

For an article on Anti-Microbial Resistance within the SPS Chapter of TTIP

EU suggested text on strong cooperation between the EU and the US for reduced use of antibiotics in animal production to be included in TTIP, as antibiotic resistance is a real global threat to both human and animal health, future food production and food security.

Article X.X: Collaboration Related to Reduced Use of Antibiotics in Animal Production to Combat Antibiotic Resistance

1. The Parties recognise that antibiotic resistance is a serious threat to human and animal health. Antibiotic use in animal production can contribute to antibiotic resistance that may represent a risk to man, either through direct infection by resistant zoonotic bacteria or by the transfer of resistance determinants to other bacteria. The Parties recognise that the nature of the threat is transnational.
2. The Parties therefore agree to create a Technical Working Group, consisting of expert level representatives, with a dedicated work plan under the Joint Management Committee of this Chapter on reduced use of antibiotics in animal production to combat antibiotic resistance. The Technical Working Group shall:
 - a. Facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and experiences in the field of antibiotic resistance and animal production; and identify common views, interests, priorities and policies in the area.
 - b. Spur and support the development of:
 - i. a harmonised system for surveillance of antibiotic resistance, and a harmonised system for collection and analysis of data on the use of antibiotics in animal production.
 - ii. a stewardship programme including:
 - A. guidelines for veterinarians and animal producers on best practice in the use of antibiotics in animal production,
 - B. guidelines for animal producers on good animal husbandry practices that prevent sickness and reduce the need for antibiotics, and
 - C. guidelines for decision making, explaining i.e. the costs and benefits of applying b) i–ii above, and the practicalities of participating in the governmental surveillance and data collection programmes mentioned in a) above.
 - D. other initiatives to promote the reduction of antibiotic use in animal production.
 - iii. quality assurance programmes that allow for assessment of antibiotic stewardship in animal production.
3. Furthermore, the Parties shall:
 - a. Collaborate in and follow existing and future guidelines, standards, recommendations and actions developed in relevant international organisations, initiatives and national plans aiming to promote reduced use of antibiotics and relating to animal production and veterinary practices.
 - b. Collaborate in promoting reduced use of antibiotics in animal production in third countries.