



29 January 2015, Brussels

Equine Veterinarians asks for a greater availability of medicines for horses in Europe

Members of the European Parliament discussed the content of the Veterinary Medicinal Products proposal with EU Commission representatives and veterinary practitioners on 29 January 2015 in Brussels.

Julie Girling (ECR, UK) introduced the first MEP Horse Group Lunch of this legislature. The Group, which was established in 2011, meets 3 times a year to discuss legislative proposals with an impact on the horse industry with MEPs.

The Regulation proposal on veterinary medicinal products was adopted on 10 September 2014 and the **Assistants of Mrs Françoise Grossetete** (EPP, FR, rapporteur for the Environment Committee) and **Mrs Marit Paulsen** (Liberal, SW, rapporteur for the Agriculture committee), **Remy Petitot and Christian Juliusson** looked at the main items to improve the document including: precisions in antibiotic prescription and sales, extending the period of technical product information to support innovation and to look at administrative burdens.

The Federation of Equine Veterinarians of Europe expressed their support for the document in general however they had a few concerns at the same time - **Claire Scicluna and Mark Bowen** stressed the European added value for opening the market and facilitating market authorization **to increase the availability of medicines** for minor species – as horses in this legislature are considered a minor species compared to other farm animals. They also highlighted that one single market will be a strong defence against both fraud and abuses of use of antibiotics, whilst also improving horses health and welfare. Mark Bowen asked for half a year of withdrawal period for most medicines if the horse has to be slaughtered.

Stefano Soro and **Ariane Van der Stappen** from European Commission DG Health and Food Safety informed the meeting that the aim of the reform was precisely to improve the access to medicine, whilst noting that veterinarian products only represent 3% of the total turnover of medicine products (human). They also stressed that mutual recognition of market authorization is a difficult process to implement and adoption will be “painful” for a lot the member states.

Mrs Françoise Grossetete will discuss the topic in the Parliament on 18 March and have a report ready on 16 April. Mrs Marit Paulsen for the AGRI Committee will discuss the proposal on 24 February and suggest improvements in her report on 24 March. She will make sure the text is in adequacy with the Animal Health Regulation, currently in discussion at the Parliament as well.

More information on the EHN: www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu or contact info@europeanhorsenetwork.eu