



A One Health Strategy for a healthier and more sustainable Europe

A call to action from AnimalhealthEurope

AnimalhealthEurope is the association representing manufacturers of animal medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in Europe. It is a not-for-profit body representing both corporate members and national animal health associations in Europe. It represents both innovators and generics alike, as well as large, medium-sized and small companies. AnimalhealthEurope's membership covers 90% of the European market for animal health products.

As emphasised in the [Letta report](#), understanding and controlling diseases in domestic and wild animals is important to proactively prevent infectious diseases in people. Protecting animal health and welfare also directly safeguards food safety and secures food supply, while preventing foodborne illnesses.

We believe that **animal health plays a central role for ensuring the continued protection of our shared One Health**. While addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), foodborne diseases, and emerging disease threats are undoubtedly crucial components of One Health action, there are other areas that should also be considered within the wider One Health scope. The European Union (EU) has primarily prioritised these aforementioned areas in their One Health initiatives, potentially overlooking other important aspects where animal health can contribute.

We have developed a comprehensive vision for future One Health action areas encompassing animal health in the EU.

We call on the European Commission to establish a dedicated over-arching One Health Strategy that goes beyond the topic of addressing antimicrobial resistance, and considers the following animal health related objectives:

Proposed Objectives for a One Health Strategy

1. Recognise **the interconnectedness of challenges, issues and opportunities** and ensure interdisciplinary exchanges. Guaranteeing a seat at the table for animal health during discussions on human health and/or environmental challenges (like medicines shortages, disease surveillance, etc.) is essential, as animal health can be both impacted and part of the solution.
2. Support further research and **encourage wide collaboration to identify and fill research gaps** in animal health, by supporting comparative medicine, ensuring collaboration between academia and industry, addressing competitive issues, and by guaranteeing the necessary conditions for uptake of research.
3. Enact policies that **enable the commercialisation of innovative solutions while maintaining the EU's strategic autonomy** in the field of animal medicines by fostering an environment conducive to rapid and flexible regulatory approvals and market uptake, especially for limited markets¹.
4. Address the veterinary shortages challenge to ensure adequate veterinary capacity everywhere, and particularly in remote rural areas, starting by recognising **animal health as a Global Public Good**², recognising **veterinary professionals as essential healthcare professionals**³, and also **recognising the substances used to manufacture veterinary medicines as essential for our shared One Health**.
5. Ensure **coherence in all policies, instilling a balance and leaving none of the sustainability pillars** behind, and promote **cooperation at local, national, and global levels** to address the complexities and interrelationships between human, animal, and environmental health.

1. According to Article 4(29) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6, "limited market" "means a market for one of the following medicinal product types:

(a) veterinary medicinal products for the treatment or prevention of diseases that occur infrequently or in limited geographical areas;

(b) veterinary medicinal products for animal species other than cattle, sheep for meat production, pigs, chickens, dogs and cats."

2. A Global Public Good benefits all countries and all generations to come. Prevention and control of animal diseases constitute a Global Public Good.

3. The International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) 2008 defines health professionals as those who "conduct research, improve or develop concepts, theories and operational methods, and apply scientific knowledge relating to medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and promotion of health equity."

Taking Action

Working with one another towards shared goals through...



AnimalhealthEurope proposes **5 practical actions** for the European Commission to focus on in the more *immediate future*:

- 1.** Create an **EU One Health Cross-Border, Cross-Sectoral Advisory Group** (not solely on AMR) to promote discussion, best practices sharing, exchange of knowledge and expertise, synergies, collaboration and partnership opportunities, etc.
- 2.** Establish a truly **operational platform for coordination and collaboration in prevention, detection and control of zoonoses** where industry can access the latest relevant information and use it to better prepare for commercialisation of the necessary solutions in the required quantities.
- 3.** Expand **vaccine banks** through the Animal Health Law and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, to be better prepared in case of natural or disease outbreaks.
- 4.** Ensure that all **financing** allocated to health takes a One Health approach.
- 5.** Recognise the animal health contributions to sustainable food systems, by creating **measures to support the uptake of technology, innovative products, preventive medicines** and any other tools that can contribute to better animal health, food safety and precision livestock farming.

We consider that our objectives and practical actions can be supported by the European Commission with or without the existence of a formal One Health Strategy, so we count on you to ensure proper implementation of the One Health concept in all policies.

