PRESS RELEASE

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exchange of information on best practices, critical to ensuring the responsible use of veterinary medicines across the EU

Brussels, 13 October 2016 – EPRUMA and the Slovak Presidency of the EU held a workshop today to create a common understanding on the responsible use of veterinary medicines in the EU. The event highlighted the need to increase the exchange of information and dialogue on best practices between public authorities and the private sector across the EU.

More than 100 delegates from the EU institutions, national authorities and professional organisations participated in the workshop, which focused on the EU's antibiotic policy and on national approaches to responsible use. The programme showcased concrete examples on how public authorities and stakeholders in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom are implementing best practices on the use of veterinary medicines, including antibiotics.

During the event, EPRUMA partners signed a declaration emphasising their commitment to pursuing common objectives for the coming years. These include promoting animal health and welfare through the responsible use of veterinary medicines; facilitating coordination and exchange of information on best practices; and encouraging greater cooperation between national governments and stakeholders.

Rens van Dobbenburgh, EPRUMA Chair, said 'Today's event sheds light on the need for a sustained commitment by all animal health actors. This is why signing this declaration is not only the consolidation of over 10 years working in partnership, but also the basis for delivering a holistic approach towards the responsible use of veterinary medicines in the EU in the future.'

Jozef Bires, Slovak Chief Veterinary Officer, stated 'The Slovak Presidency highlights the need for the responsible use of antibiotics in all stages of the food chain, and biosecurity measures to promote animal health. In this context, the use of other effective tools such as animal welfare, animal nutrition, vaccination and surveillance programmes in the holdings and farms within the EU is necessary. We should not forget that a very important part of our responsibility relates to education and public awareness activities, especially focused on veterinarians, breeders and farmers. Research must be focused on developing new active and effective substances, and on new medicines with an antimicrobial effect, as well as new technological development related to such veterinary medicinal products.'

- ENDS -

Notes for editors:

EPRUMA
168 Avenue de Tervueren, box 8, 5th floor ● 1150 Brussels ● Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 543 7564
E-mail: info@epruma.eu - Website: www.epruma.eu
Twitter: @epruma1 - YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/eprumacom

EPRUMA is a multi-stakeholder platform linking best practice with animal health and public health. It aims to ensure best practice through responsible use of medicines in the prevention and control of animal diseases.

EPRUMA partners:

- COPA and COGECA: European Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives
- EGGVP: European Group for Generic Veterinary Products
- EISA: European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
- Diagnostics for Animals
- FECAVA: Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations
- FEFAC: European Feed Manufacturers Federation
- FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
- FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
- IFAH-EUROPE: International Federation for Animal Health-Europe
- PGEU: Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union

Associate partners (National Responsible Use platforms):

- AMCRA: Centre for Expertise on Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance in Animals (Belgium)
- RUMA: Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (United Kingdom)
- SDa: Veterinary Medicines Authority (The Netherlands)
- VETRESPONSABLE: Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (Spain)

Key EPRUMA documents:

- EPRUMA declaration – 'Our 7 commitments to the responsible use of veterinary medicines' (signed on 13.10.2016): http://www.epruma.eu//index.php?option=com_downloads&id=127
- Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals – Reaching for the next level (2015): http://www.epruma.eu/publications/brochures.html
- Best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals (2008): http://www.epruma.eu//component/downloads/downloads/95.html (available in 12 languages)
- Veterinary medicinal product terminology (2013): A widely referenced document across the EU containing terms such as: antimicrobials - antibiotics; treatment: curative - prophylaxis - metaphylaxis; veterinary prescription and POM; responsible use http://www.epruma.eu//component/downloads/downloads/76.html

Contact: Myriam Alcain, Communications Manager (see details in the footer)

EPRUMA
168 Avenue de Tervueren, box 8, 5th floor ● 1150 Brussels ● Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 543 7564
E-mail: info@epruma.eu - Website: www.epruma.eu
Twitter: @epruma1 - YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/eprumacom