

The 5th cycle of the regional seminar of Focal Points for

veterinary products of the Europe region

3-5 October 2018



This regional seminar was kindly hosted by France in the National School for Veterinary Services (ENSV) located in Lyon, which is also an OIE Collaborating Centre. Thirty-eight focal points or their replacements were present (out of 53 countries in the region). In addition to the usual cross-cutting themes (e.g. good governance of veterinary medicines), particularly rich specific sequences were dedicated to resistance to antiparasitics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the

collection of antimicrobial use data, and illegal veterinary products.

Regarding antiparasitics, a state of play on their availability and the current knowledge on the development of resistance in parasites was provided both at national competent authority and veterinary practitioner field level. It was overall concluded that the phenomenon is real and should be reported more often in the framework of pharmacovigilance in order to be better documented and allow to take appropriate actions.

On AMR, presentations on the global governance were completed by the feedback of France, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Spain and Ireland on their activities, national action plans and results. This very encouraging discussion particularly emphasised that an active involvement and coordination with all partners – public, industry, farmers – is one of the keys to success in the fight against AMR.

A productive interactive working group session focused on the OIE template for the data collection on *antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals*, in order to assist Member Countries to improve their reporting options to the OIE questionnaire. While stressing the importance for the OIE of the collection of quality data in order to feed and guide the reflection on AMR, this discussion helped the Focal Points to identify critical issues and practical solutions that will be valuable for the actual delivery and use at national level.

The last session on quality of veterinary medicinal products, including illegal, falsified and substandard veterinary products, was introduced by presentations from the veterinary medicines national competent authorities of France (also an OIE Collaborating Centre) and Belgium, an industry representative, and the World Customs Organisation. The discussion demonstrated that even though the market of veterinary products is very small compared to human medicines it is not exempt of the presence of illegal products. This includes genuine products sold in a country where no

marketing authorisation has been granted, unauthorised packaging or repackaging (including the Summary of Products Characteristic -SPC- leaflet) and outright falsified products. Illegal veterinary products can be found in all countries, irrespective of the size of their economy. Some countries in the region are already actively searching for and removing illegal, falsified and substandard veterinary products from the market. They insisted that such action requires a very tight coordination with their human counterparts and all other relevant enforcement bodies (customs, police, justice).

‘ One point came out as particularly challenging for all: the internet sales of veterinary product where it is estimated that 50% of the products may be illegal.’

The participants expressed great interest in the organisation of the next cycle of training seminar for the Focal Points for veterinary products in Europe, tentatively scheduled for 2020, which could highlight pharmacovigilance.



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