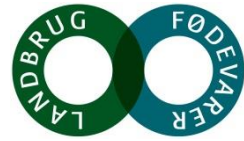




NORGES BONDELAG



To the Nordic ministers of health, food and agriculture and to the Nordic Council

We warmly welcome the joint declaration on antimicrobial resistance by the Ministers of health, food and agriculture from the member countries of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The common Nordic voice in the EU and EEA is of great importance.

Great variations on the use of antibiotics for husbandry production across Europe

Legislation proposals on veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed have been announced by the EU Commission. It focus on how to increase the availability of veterinary medicinal products by improving the internal market, but it also deals with the public health risk of antimicrobial resistance. It is of great concern for the Nordic countries to see that the proposal still allows for prophylactic use of antibiotics, which means that it will still be allowed to treat groups of animals with no diagnose or no clinical signs of disease. Prophylactic use of antibiotics is not allowed in the Nordic Countries, and is seen as one of the important tools to secure a responsible use of antibiotics.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has recently published their annual report, which shows that the usage of antimicrobials in animal husbandry differs greatly in Europe. In the Nordic countries the amounts are considerably low when compared to other countries.

Prophylactic use of antibiotics should not be allowed

This large variation between different countries indicates that there is a routine use of prophylactic antibiotics in many countries during certain periods of risk in the life of animals.

We strongly urge the Ministers to bring forward to the Commission that prophylactic use of antibiotics should not be allowed in the future proposals for veterinary products and medicated feed. It is an important step to secure responsible use of antibiotics in the future.

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Helena Jonsson
Lantbrukarnas Riksförbund



Sindri Sigurgeirsson
Bændasamtök Íslands



Juha Marttila
Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain
Keskusliitto



Lars Petter Bartnes
Norges Bondelag



Martin Merrild
Landbrug & Fødevarer