



## Protect vital life-saving antimicrobials for human health

As many human health professionals, public health and animal welfare campaigners feared, the list of antimicrobials reserved for human health proposed by the European Commission does not protect vital antimicrobials used in human health to save lives. In the light of the overriding public health interest, **we call on you to support the Objection pursuant to Rule 112(2) and (3): Antimicrobials or groups of antimicrobials reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans.**

### Why should MEPs ask the Commission to review the list of antimicrobials reserved for human use?

1. None of the antimicrobials proposed in the list is authorised in food production, which means that this list will bring no change to current farming practices that rely on the use of antimicrobials.
2. The proposed act does not protect last resort antimicrobials, such as colistin, which are the last line of defence against deadly infections in humans.
3. Human health experts have not been sufficiently consulted all along the process.
4. The Commission has not proposed a clear timeline for the periodical re-evaluation of the antimicrobials that are part of the list.

The Commission recognises in its draft implementing act that “certain antimicrobial medicinal products should be reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans, with a **view to better preserve their efficacy for human medicine** and to supporting the fight against antimicrobial resistance.”

Nonetheless, **no antimicrobials proposed in the list are currently authorised in food production.** Furthermore, the proposed list only includes one out of the five Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPCIA) designated by the WHO as the last treatment available for some infections in humans - notably, the only one that was not authorised in food production.

This means that **the list will not bring any change to current farming practices that rely on antimicrobials** and will therefore have no impact on preserving the efficacy of vital antimicrobials for human medicine.

This is of particular concern with regard to the last-line antibiotics that are used to treat patients with severe infections and are the last line of defence against the growing threat of multidrug-resistant bacteria. For example, colistin, an

antimicrobial of the class of polymyxins that is one of the few treatments available for some severe drug-resistant infections in humans. Between 2011 and 2020, the consumption of polymyxins – mainly colistin – in European hospitals has risen by 67%. Colistin is used in food production to treat neonatal diarrhoea in piglets, often caused by poor farming practices such as early weaning. This promotes resistance which can be transmitted to life-threatening human pathogens. An increase in colistin-resistant bacteria would undoubtedly result in the avoidable loss of many lives in the years to come.

It is alarming that **the data sources used in EMA's advice do not give priority weighting to human medical opinions**, even though this legal act is intended to safeguard crucial tools in human medicine in the context of rising AMR trends. Additionally, it is baffling that the Commission does not commit to a clear timeline for the periodic revision of the list.

We call on the European Parliament to approve the objection and ask the European Commission to review the list and consider the evidence-based advice from human health experts throughout this process. Only in this way can the list become a meaningful tool to preserve the efficacy of key antimicrobials and ultimately tackle the silent and growing pandemic of AMR. This is the last chance for the time being to speak with a strong and united European voice to protect the most important antibiotics for humans in the best possible way.

#### **Supporting Organisations:**

Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics  
AnTiB - Antibiotische Therapie in Bielefeld  
Ärztenez Bielefeld  
Compassion in World Farming  
Deutsche Umwelthilfe  
Doctors Against Factory Farming  
European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP)  
European Federation Of Nurses Associations (EFN)  
Germanwatch  
Health Care Without Harm Europe  
Medmissio - Institute for Global Health  
Menschen für Tierrechte  
Mezis  
PAN Germany  
Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)  
The European Hospital and Healthcare Federation  
Tierärzte für Tiere