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Via email: postformand@ft.dk

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Dear Ms Kjærsgaard,

Following decades of warnings, which began in 1945 with the father of Penicillin Dr Alexander Fleming, the catastrophic effects of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are rippling throughout the globe. Failing action, AMR will undermine the global economy and lead to the death of at least 300 million people by 2050. With the current level of awareness, none can postpone action behind the claim that they were unaware of the extent of the AMR threat.

In response to this global health crisis, the United Nations (UN) organised a High-Level Meeting that culminated in the adoption of a historic political declaration designed to fight AMR. On 21 September 2017, marking the one year anniversary of the High-Level Meeting, a follow-up meeting was organized on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly. Presenting a keynote, Dame Sally Davies, England's Chief Medical Officer understated: "we are not where we should be". This sentiment summarises the actions taken to address AMR, not the least, the recently published EU One Health AMR Action Plan. The time to take truly effective action on AMR is now, and I would propose this begins with a revision of the June 2017 EU Action Plan. This report is in many regards substantially weaker than a **1999 Scientific Steering Committee report** tasked by the European Commission to study the threat of AMR. Among their conclusions they propose: **"tighter controls on the sale, supply and distribution of antimicrobials through enforcement", "eliminate inducements, especially financial, which encourage the inappropriate use of antibiotics", and reducing, with the ultimate aim of abolishing the use of antimicrobials substances from classes which are or may be used in human and veterinary medicine.**

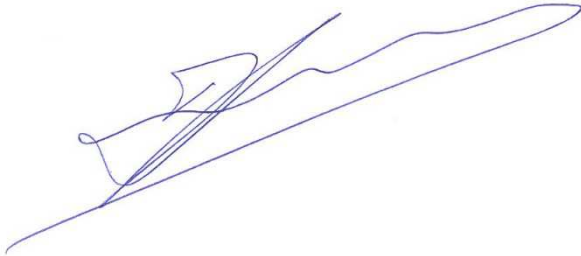
On 29 September 2017, Dr Thomas Van Boeckel and his colleagues published *Reducing antimicrobial use in food animals* in *Science*, one of the world's premier academic journals (Attachment A). The authors prescribe practical policies, substantiated by scientific rational and research, to effectively reduce the overuse of antibiotics, thereby reducing AMR, and crucially, saving lives. The combination of policies has the potential to reduce the use of antimicrobial consumption in animals by up to 80%. By contrast, without action, antibiotics use in animals could grow by 217% by 2030. I urge you to consider, that the policies laid out in this article serve as the basis of a new and this time truly effective EU AMR Action Plan.

The policies are organized under three key pillars. Firstly, regulation is needed to cap the volume of antimicrobials used: 50 mg per PCU per year. Should only the OECD countries and China adopt this measure, the projected 200,235 tons of antibiotics to be consumed by 2030 could be reduced

by 60%. Secondly, as has been proposed by various other sources, a reduction in global meat intake would decrease the need for antibiotic use. A third policy proposes introducing a user fee of 50% on top of the current price of veterinary antimicrobials, thereby reducing consumption by 31% and generating revenues of between 1.7 and 4.6 billion USD. According to the authors, such a fee should be levied on the manufactures or wholesale purchasers because they are limited in number and maintain proper records of the volume of antibiotics traded. The triad of policies summarised above could have a major impact on our global antibiotics consumption, and importantly, can be implemented immediately. Other tools such as extensive monitoring mechanisms are also needed, but require financing and time to establish. The article concludes: "Our findings suggest that imposing a user fee on veterinary antimicrobials is a plausible policy option to achieve meaningful reductions in antimicrobials use in the short term while simultaneously raising funds to improve farming practices that will benefit the long-term viability of the live-stock industry."

Between 1999 and 2017 around 400,000 Europeans died of AMR. Enough is enough. Unless the European Union accepts this reality the European Commission cannot be told to act. And action must be taken now. Thank you so much for your attention and support.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Mark Eyskens
Former Prime Minister of Belgium
Chairman PA International Foundation

Encl.:

- Attachment A: Reducing antimicrobial use in food animals, Science