EMHF

European & Mediterranean

Horseracing Federation

M. Pascal Canfin, MEP

Chair

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

9th July, 2021

Dear M. Canfin,

**DELEGATED ACT ON CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING ANTIMICROBIAL MEDICINES RESERVED FOR TREATING HUMANS**

The European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF) represents the national governing bodies for the sport of thoroughbred horseracing across the European and Mediterranean region. It comprises 26 countries, of which 17 are EU member States.

The EMHF is fully supportive of the views of its members’ veterinary officers in endorsing the draft Commission delegated regulation DEA (2021/2718) on the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans,

as expressed through the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee in their letter of today’s date (attached).

Yours faithfully,

**Dr Paull Khan**

**Secretary-General**

By email

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9 July 2021

**Delegated Act on criteria for identifying antimicrobial medicines reserved for treating humans**

Dear M. Canfin

The European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) was formed in 1992 and within its membership includes the racing authorities of Ireland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the Nordic countries. The aims of the organisation are to improve collaboration and seek harmonisation in areas relevant to Anti-Doping and the use of prohibited substances in racing. The work of the EHSLC extends to harmonisation on the application of regulatory provisions within those racing nations on aspects of equine health and biosecurity. The EHSLC consists of racing regulators, scientists and chief veterinarians to underpin the regulation and harmonisation relating to welfare of the animals participating in the sport.

The EHSLC is aware of the proposed delegated Act on criteria for identifying antimicrobial medicines reserved for treating humans. With regard to the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans, the EHSLC acknowledges the importance of protecting human health through the responsible use of these medicines.

Following the OIE General Assembly in 2015, EHSLC members have represented the need to reduce antimicrobial use to the international racing community and have worked within their own jurisdictions to educate and encourage use only when essential.

The EHSLC is acutely aware of the need for the responsible use and regulation of antimicrobials and for that reason over recent years has been working through a risk management process to harmonise on the regulation and use of these medicines within our racing jurisdictions. This work combines both education and regulation components and direct engagement with industry member bodies and participants.

However, it is also recognised by the EHSLC, that the banning of antimicrobials authorised for use in animals without any scientific or science based reasoning, is counterproductive and increases potential risks on the health and welfare of food producing, sport and companion animals as well as to human health, and this is a very important consideration.

Specifically within the context of the horse racing industry, the EHSLC will continue to advocate for a responsible and harmonised approach regarding the use of antimicrobial medicines, and the important role that the equine veterinary profession play.

Given the responsible risk based approach presently being adopted by the various members of the EHSLC group of racing jurisdictions, we would endorse the draft Commission delegated regulation DEA (2021/2718) on the criteria for the designation of antimicrobials to be reserved for the treatment of certain infections in humans.

The EHSLC trusts that the European Parliament will give consideration to the views expressed by the members in discussion of the proposed delegated act.

Yours sincerely

Pp Henri Pouret

Chair, EHSLC Board