

AVEC Position on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

A shared One Health responsibility

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains one of the most important One Health challenges. Preserving antimicrobials requires action across human health, animal health, food safety and the environment. The European poultry meat sector fully recognises its responsibility and remains committed to using antibiotics **as little as possible, but as much as necessary**, under veterinary oversight and in line with EU rules. Antibiotics are not used for growth promotion nor routine prevention.

Prevention first: healthy animals need fewer antibiotics

European poultry production is built on prevention: robust biosecurity, vaccination where available, good nutrition, farmer training, early detection and veterinary diagnosis. When treatment is needed to protect animal health and welfare, it must remain available and targeted. AMR policy should therefore support prevention and professional veterinary judgement, rather than creating rigid targets that could compromise animal welfare.

Progress and reliable monitoring

The EU poultry sector has made substantial progress over the last decade through voluntary reduction plans, improved farm management and strengthened veterinary stewardship. This progress shows that responsible use, high animal welfare and food safety can go hand in hand.

AVEC supports harmonised AMR monitoring, because reliable data are essential for proportionate policy. The 2026 DG SANTE overview report¹ confirms that Member States have improved implementation of EU AMR monitoring rules and that the system broadly provides comparable data. At the same time, the report highlights weaknesses that must be addressed: delays in sampling programmes, difficulties collecting *Salmonella* isolates under national control plans, insufficient detail in reporting to EFSA and, most importantly, gaps in sampling imported meat at border control posts.

AVEC calls for

- **Balanced One Health action:** AMR policy must address human, animal and environmental sources with equal ambition.
- **Prevention-first investment:** support biosecurity, vaccination, diagnostics, nutrition, training and practical farm-level tools.
- **Robust and transparent surveillance:** ensure complete sampling, clear methodology, reliable laboratory standards and meaningful reporting.
- **Equal treatment of EU and imported products:** apply controls consistently, including at BCPs.
- **Science-based communication and trade policy:** avoid simplistic narratives or non-tariff barriers and base decisions on comparable evidence.

Conclusion

AVEC will continue to support responsible antibiotic use, disease prevention and transparent monitoring. The next step is not more pressure on one sector alone, but better implementation, better data and shared responsibility across the full One Health spectrum.

AVEC Secretariat

ⁱ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview/details/168>