Measures to improve and reduce application of antibiotics in animal husbandry

1. Monitoring systems for poultry first, then for pigs and cattle

   Analysis of existing documentation with the objective of an increased transparency regarding production systems. How are industry and single farms doing in comparison with other industrial sectors? Implementation handled by QS. Poultry sector implemented at present. Sectors pig and cattle will follow.

   >>> QS (with the assistance of the German Farmer Association (DBV) and the German Association of Veterinary Practitioners (bpt))

2. Development of indicators for animal welfare and animal health

   The development of such indicators is essential to improve husbandry and for the long-term improvement of the health-status in farm animal husbandry.

   >>> Task of bpt-expert group on poultry, pig and cattle (development of initial proposals)
   >>> Cooperation with sciences

3. Evaluation of treatment methods

   Integration of livestock management (farm visitation programme) into the production process of animal husbandry per statutory provisions (for instance: frequency and intensity of visits according to the Directive on Pig husbandry-hygience - Schweinehaltungshygieneverordnung). Efficiency control after therapy with antibiotics by the veterinarian is mandatory to reach the intended improvement of the animal health status.

   >>> Federal Government (BMELV), Lower House of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), Federal Council (Bundesrat)

4. Eradication concepts

   Diseases which up to the present experience and studies often recur or are latent in the herds must be identified in order to control to what extent eradication concepts for these diseases are necessary, possible and useful. From the analysis we expect precise recommendations regarding hygiene management, animal husbandry management, therapy concepts etc.

   >>> Task of bpt-expert group on poultry, pig and cattle (to gather experience regarding disease processes from practise in order to give a professional opinion).

   >>> Cooperation between professional practise and sciences is mandatory!
5. Changing Price Regulation for Veterinary Medicine

To prevent competition via the “cheapest veterinary medicine”, the Federal Government must change the Price Regulation on Veterinary Medicines. A maximum price regulation must not be in force any longer, but veterinary medicines, especially antibiotics, must be subject to a minimum price regulation according to the Price Regulation for Human Medicine. Thus, transparency in pricing for medicine would be provided and the basic principle “plenty is identical with cheap” would no longer have any effect.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV, BMWi)

6. Ban on advertising for veterinary prescription drugs

The legislative body must make sure that the ban on advertising for veterinary prescription drugs will stay in force despite reverse European attempts and as well support the ban on advertising in Brussels. Otherwise pressure and demand will arise from agriculture regarding the use of certain categories of antibiotics or therapy plans, which even might be implemented on the farm in contrary to the recommendations of the veterinarian in charge.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV, BMG)

7. Standardization for prescription only medicine in Europe

Because of the free movement of goods within the EU and the possibility to dispatch veterinary medicines, the Federal Government must accomplish a Europe-wide standardization for prescription only medicine when implementing the EU-guidelines for veterinary medicines; the prescriptions must be done by veterinarians exclusively.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV, BMG)

8. Diagnostics

Quicker and better diagnostics through intensifying pathological, bacteriological and serological testing options. The request for a specific post-mortem removal of organs under defined conditions must be implemented by the legislative body in a timely manner (Germany’s Animal By-products Disposal Act –Tierische Nebenprodukte-Beseitigungsgesetz). The results of the tasks in Lower Saxony (LTK Niedersachsen, bpt and LAVES) show that this is possible. The examination potentials in the regions must be kept and improved.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV), Lower House of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), Federal Council (Bundesrat)

>>> Sciences
9. **Support prevention from infectious diseases**

Infections in livestock must be analysed regarding the possibility and practicability of prevention measures by vaccination. If possible, vaccination regimes for the practice from the practise must be developed in cooperation with the sciences (example: *Permanent Commission on Vaccination in bpt - Ständige Impfkommission*). Recommendations on vaccination are effective elements in the area of prevention.

>>> Task of bpt-expert group on poultry, pig and cattle (to gather experience regarding infectious diseases from practise)

>>> Cooperation between professional practise and sciences is mandatory

10. **Handling of remaining quantities of antibiotics to prevent environmental pollution**

Monitoring and responsibility for remaining quantities of pharmaceuticals from the amounts dispensed as well as treatment procedures must be regulated in agricultural holdings. Disposal of remaining quantities from practices by pharmaceutical industry.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV), Lower House of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), Federal Council (Bundesrat)

11. **Measures against the “Pharmaceutical grey market”**

The illegal cross-border movement of pharmaceuticals and the internet distribution regarding pharmaceuticals for animals must be stopped. Legislative body and state control are in charge to eliminate the deficits evident since years. The present attitude can no longer be accepted. The achievements of monitoring the internet by customs and police are evident in other fields.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV), Lower House of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag), Federal Council (Bundesrat), inspection authorities.

12. **Antibiotic-Guideline and guides for oral medication**

Continuous revision and further development of guidelines; handling and use of “reserve-antibiotics”, in particular rededication criteria, necessities and possibilities of microbial detection and resistance determination.

>>> Federal "Chamber" / Federal Professional Body of Veterinarians

13. **Study of Veterinary Medicine**

The curriculum of pharmacology must be revised. The following topics must be entered or stronger evaluated:
• Application of antibiotics (consideration of necessity with special consideration of resistance development and selection of the said, consideration of antibiotic guidelines;

• Relevance of pharmacovigilance as task of the veterinarian regarding safety of veterinary drugs and development of resistances.

>>> Faculty Association and Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs

14. Postgraduate Education of Veterinarians

The request already postulated by bpt during the official hearing for the 13th Amendment of the German Pharmaceutical Act (13th AMG-Novelle) regarding an obligation of veterinarians for advanced training in the fields of the “German Pharmaceuticals Act (AMG)” and the Regulation for Veterinary Dispensing Stations (Tierärztliche Hausapotheke-Verordnung TÄHAV)” must be implemented now! The constant changes of AMG, TÄHAV and the accompanying legislation must be passed on – indeed nation wide to guarantee their abideance. Contents must be the latest findings regarding antibiotic-application, development of resistances and resistances selection, antibiotic guidelines and the requirements and implementation of pharmacovigilance. The legal advanced training in this area must count towards the periods of advanced training according to health care legislation of the Federal States and the professional code of conduct of the Regional Chambers.

>>> Federal Government (BMELV)
>>> Regional Chambers

15. Quality Assurance Measures

Introduction of a controlled and accepted method for quality assurance in the veterinary practise, especially regarding the veterinary dispensing stations (GVP Good Veterinary Practise)

>>> Federal Government (BMELV)
>>> Regional Chambers

16. Creating awareness and attentiveness of livestock owners and citizens regarding handling of antibiotics

Description of the importance of antibiotic use to maintain good animal health and their irreplaceability regarding therapies for bacterial diseases.
Description of the use of antibiotics in correlation with origin and selection of resistances, and animal husbandry and the connection between costs and production conditions.

>>> bpt website

17. Elaborateness and attentiveness regarding handling and application of antibiotics by veterinarian practitioners
The topics application of antibiotics, origin of resistance and selection of resistance as well as contributions to ongoing discussion, symposia and publications regarding these sensitive topics are informatively presented and continuously updated on bpt’s website/internal section (with links to other web pages).

>>> bpt website (continuously updated)

Frankfurt, January 18th, 2012