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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Conclusions on One Health in agrifood systems

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on One Health in agrifood systems, approved by the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) at its 4190th meeting held on 13 July 2026.

Council conclusions on One Health in agrifood systems

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING:

- Council conclusions of 29 January 2024 on the EU Global Health Strategy – Better health for all in a changing world¹;
- Council conclusions of 21 June 2024 on the Future of the European Health Union: A Europe that cares, prepares and protects²;
- Council recommendation of 13 June 2023 on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach³;
- Council conclusions of 26 May 2021 on the EU’s priorities for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit⁴.

¹ 5908/24.
² 11597/24.
³ *OJ C* 220, 22.6.2023, pp. 1–20.
⁴ 9335/21.

General principles

1. RECALLS that Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stipulates that the Union must ensure a high level of human health protection in the definition and implementation of all its policies and activities.
2. EMPHASISES that human health cannot be safeguarded in isolation and is intrinsically linked to, and dependent upon, the health of animals, plants and the wider ecosystems that underpin our agrifood systems⁵. In this regard, RECALLS that ‘One Health’ is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals, ecosystems and the wider environment⁶.
3. RECOGNISES that the One Health approach can contribute to more efficient and effective use of resources through integrated and preventive action.
4. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of continuously fostering the One Health culture, including through education, training and awareness-raising, particularly among younger generations, to address interconnected health, environmental and sustainability challenges in an integrated manner.
5. STRESSES that sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems are essential to ensure our lasting capacity to provide sufficient, safe and affordable food and healthy diets for all, while recognising local food cultures. In this regard, UNDERLINES that long-term global food security can only be achieved by safeguarding and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and protecting the health of plants, animals and ecosystems. RECOGNISES that this requires a holistic and systemic approach, underpinned by research and innovation.

⁵ Agrifood systems as all the interconnected activities and actors involved in getting food from field to fork. This definition encompasses everything from agricultural production and processing to distribution, consumption and waste management.

⁶ The One Health High-Level Experts Panel (OHLEP) developed the following definition of One Health in 2022: ‘One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It inherently recognises that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent.’.

6. ACKNOWLEDGES that the ‘Vision for Agriculture and Food’, presented by the European Commission in February 2025⁷, emphasises the importance of ensuring that all elements of the agrifood sector operate within planetary boundaries while contributing to climate objectives, biodiversity conservation and restoration, healthy soils, clean water and resilient food systems.
7. HIGHLIGHTS that agrifood systems are at the interface of human, animal, plant and ecosystem health, and that the One Health approach provides an integrated framework for addressing the interconnected risks and cross-sectoral challenges that agrifood systems are facing.
8. STRESSES that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) spreads across the human-animal-environment interface, meaning resistant pathogens and resistance genes can move between people, livestock, wildlife, and ecosystems regardless of where they first emerged, and requires coordinated action. NOTES the particular importance of the One Health approach to address AMR and STRESSES that measures should be based on EU legislation and internationally agreed standards.
9. EMPHASISES, in this regard, that One Health serves not only as a health strategy but also as a key enabler of sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

⁷ 6385/25 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: ‘A vision for Agriculture and Food: shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations’.

10. STRESSES the importance of building on lessons learned from past One Health challenges, scientific evidence and practical experience to strengthen integrated approaches across agrifood systems.
11. UNDERLINES that embedding One Health into agrifood systems can generate significant long-term savings by shifting the focus from resource-intensive crisis management – such as responding to pandemics, animal health crises or crop failures – toward cost-effective prevention and systemic resilience, thereby safeguarding public budgets and strengthening social cohesion.

Applying the One Health approach in agrifood systems

12. UNDERLINES that applying the One Health approach in agrifood systems, including both terrestrial and aquatic food systems, implies addressing the challenges related to human health, animal health and animal welfare, plant health and ecosystem health on an equal footing while fully recognising their interdependence.
13. As regards **human health**, HIGHLIGHTS:
 - the strong interlinkages between agrifood systems and human health, as all components of the agrifood chain – including primary production, processing, storage, transport, marketing, consumption and waste management – have direct and indirect impacts on both individual and public health;
 - the critical need for prevention-oriented approaches within agrifood systems, which contribute to reducing food- and water-borne diseases, all forms of malnutrition and diet-related diseases, exposure to contaminants and zoonotic risk;
 - the fundamental importance of promoting healthy dietary patterns, while recognising local food cultures, in particular through education and awareness-raising, better access to information and healthier food environments, thereby reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease and other non-communicable diseases.

14. As regards **animal health and animal welfare**, HIGHLIGHTS that:

- animal health and animal welfare are central components of resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Sustainable livestock production and aquaculture, underpinned by high standards of animal health and welfare, contributes to food security, rural livelihoods and safe food production, while reducing the risk of the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases and mitigating environmental impacts;
- biosecurity, disease prevention and control (including vaccination strategies), prudent use of antimicrobials, surveillance systems, and high animal welfare standards remain critical components of effective One Health implementation;
- the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, jointly led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), remains an important mechanism for managing transboundary animal diseases and thus contributes to food safety, sustainable livelihoods, secure trade, food security and public health;
- measures addressing animal health and animal welfare should be based on EU legislation and internationally agreed standards.

15. As regards **plant health**, HIGHLIGHTS that:

- healthy plants and forests are fundamental to human well-being and resilient agrifood systems, providing food, feed, oxygen and essential ecosystem services while supporting biodiversity, maintaining healthy soils and reducing the risk of land degradation, hydroecological instability and zoonotic spillover;

- effective surveillance and early-warning systems, making the best use of technological solutions, are essential for the prevention, timely detection and management of plant pests and diseases in an integrated and sustainable way;
- sustainable plant protection practices, including integrated pest management and phytosanitary measures, contribute to preventing the spread of pests and diseases locally and across borders, and thus help to protect human health, biodiversity, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, forests and overall environmental sustainability;
- plants, forests and forest-based systems are essential to sustainable agrifood systems, as they provide carbon sequestration and vital ecosystem services that support ecosystems and environmental health;
- landscape-based approaches, including agroforestry systems, and sustainably managed forests strengthen biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation, thereby contributing to One Health objectives and the resilience of agrifood systems.

16. As regards **the environment and ecosystem health**, HIGHLIGHTS that:

- agrifood systems both depend on and influence environmental and ecosystem health, including clean air and water, biodiversity, healthy soils, forests and aquatic systems, and stable climate systems;

- environmental degradation, pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change increasingly amplify risks across agrifood systems, with adverse impacts on human, animal and plant health and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; integrated and holistic approaches are therefore essential to strengthen resilience, reduce cumulative risks and support the long-term sustainability of ecosystems;
 - sustainable production systems, including agroecological and other innovative approaches based on resource-efficient, environmentally sound and socially responsible practices, can, together with ecosystem restoration, deliver positive environmental outcomes while reducing long-term systemic risks, including the spillover of pathogens between wildlife and domestic animals that is associated with habitat degradation.
17. STRESSES that integrated and collaborative action across the above domains is essential to reduce cross-sectoral risks, including the emergence of food-, water- and vector-borne diseases and zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, plant pests and diseases and ecosystem degradation.
 18. ACKNOWLEDGES that reducing those risks requires a coordinated and science-based approach addressing their shared drivers, such as emerging infectious diseases, unhealthy diets, biodiversity loss, pollution and environmental degradation, climate impacts, unsustainable production systems and the inappropriate use of agricultural inputs.
 19. HIGHLIGHTS that applying the One Health approach in agrifood systems significantly strengthens surveillance, early warning, prevention, preparedness and resilience-building, thereby supporting more coherent policy responses, including across borders and at regional levels.

20. EMPHASISES that the successful implementation of One Health in agrifood systems requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders across the agrifood chain and stronger policy coherence across all relevant policy areas.
21. UNDERLINES the need to break down institutional and sectoral silos at domestic and global levels and to continue to promote the integration of One Health considerations into international standard-setting, in particular within the Codex Alimentarius Commission, WOAHA and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), thereby supporting safe and predictable international trade.

Effective governance and appropriate enabling conditions

22. EMPHASISES that effective governance and appropriate enabling conditions are essential for translating One Health principles into action, making the best use of existing structures and resources and enhancing cooperation across all relevant sectors, levels of governance and stakeholders.
23. UNDERLINES the importance of providing adequate incentives to support the uptake of One Health in practice, including through leveraging existing financial and fiscal instruments, promoting access to knowledge and innovation, and strengthening technical cooperation, knowledge exchange and capacity building, including in partner countries and developing economies.
24. ACKNOWLEDGES that the implementation of One Health in agrifood systems must take account of diverse national circumstances, production systems, institutional arrangements, environmental conditions and development priorities. Local and territorial approaches to implementation are key, given the diversity of agrifood systems and ecosystems.

25. RECOGNISES the importance of monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the One Health approach in agrifood systems, and ENCOURAGES the use of monitoring, surveillance and reporting mechanisms to support evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.
26. INVITES the Commission and Member States to continue supporting coordination, policy coherence, technical cooperation, capacity building, exchange of good practice, education, awareness-raising and knowledge sharing on One Health in agrifood systems, while avoiding undue administrative or reporting burdens.

International cooperation

27. ACKNOWLEDGES the continued need for international cooperation, particularly through strengthened engagement with the One Health Quadripartite (FAO, WHO, WOAHA and UNEP), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the IPPC, CGIAR and relevant WTO frameworks to advance One Health objectives in a coherent, effective and science-based manner across agrifood systems, including through enhanced coherence and synergies between the work of the Quadripartite organisations and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
28. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION that FAO, WHO, WOAHA, UNEP, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC have increasingly incorporated One Health principles into their work.
29. UNDERLINES that international standards developed by, in particular, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, WOAHA and the IPPC provide an established science-based framework supporting One Health implementation and enabling safe international trade.

30. RECOGNISES that continued cooperation with these bodies remains essential to maintain coherence and predictability within the international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) system; and UNDERLINES in this regard that the WTO SPS Agreement remains the principal international legal framework governing science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures and continues to provide legal certainty and predictability for international trade in agrifood products.
31. REITERATES the EU's full commitment to the multisectoral cooperation established through the Quadripartite partnership between FAO, WHO, WOA and UNEP with a view to strengthening integrated surveillance, prevention, preparedness and response capacities at global, regional and national levels. In this context, also UNDERLINES the important contribution made by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel to strengthening evidence- and science-based analysis and decision making.
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