

Appendix 2 of the letter to parliament on the approach to antibiotic resistance

Current state of affairs of the approach to zoonoses

Zoonoses constitute a worldwide problem. Bird flu is one of the most striking examples, but also MERS, Q fever, rabies and such continue to cause problems. The WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health OIE and the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO cooperate in the field of zoonoses, but the level of collaboration between the human and veterinary stakeholders in various countries can be improved. Last year, on the initiative of the US, the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) was signed by a large number of countries. The GHSA collaborates closely with the WHO, FAO and OIE.

International

The triparty coalition WHO/FAO/OIE is the global leader in the field of zoonoses. In several areas, the approach to zoonoses is being developed. The infectious diseases influenza and rabies have priority for these organisations. Additionally, the WHO is specifically addressing 7 "neglected" endemic zoonoses, such as anthrax and TB in cattle.

The GHSA has also developed an action package for the global approach to zoonoses which was circulated to various countries. In addition to Indonesia and Vietnam, leading countries of the GHSA 'zoonotic disease action package', the Netherlands has a contributing role together with a number of other countries,. The Netherlands has much to offer. The Netherlands is densely populated, both in terms of humans and animals, and there is experience with signalling, the prevention and control of zoonoses. The Q fever outbreak some years ago has provided many 'lessons learned'. The cabinet wishes to disseminate and illustrate our best practices. As "contributing country", the cabinet has offered support to Indonesia and Vietnam to further concretise the action package. We will also write down, translate and make available our structure. This structure was drastically modified after the Q fever, and can serve as a source of inspiration for countries wishing to improve their structure.

National

Human and veterinary partners are now collaborating in the Netherlands in very many areas in the field of zoonoses. A national structure has been set up and implemented consisting of signalling, risk analysis and risk management (see the letter to parliament 'TK 28286, No. 505' of 18 May 2011). The working method has now become routine within this structure. Research into zoonoses is well organised. The Dutch research institutes in this field, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment RIVM, the Central Veterinary Institute CVI and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Utrecht University, collaborate effectively. The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development ZonMw has a joint multi-annual programme in place. The Utrecht University and Wageningen University recently took the initiative to set up a National One Health centre. This centre also provides education in this field for future professionals in both human and veterinary healthcare. Finally, extra training on zoonoses has been set up for physicians and veterinarians in order to learn from each other and become more familiar with each other's work.

Regional/Local

There are regional zoonotic disease collaboration networks in a number of provinces with a high livestock density, e.g. the Zoonotic Disease Knowledge Network of the province of Brabant and the Zoonotic Disease Knowledge Network of the centre of the Netherlands (Utrecht and Gelderland provinces). Municipal Health Services (GGD) and the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority NVWA have regional collaborations. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has financed a project where local physicians and veterinarians are brought together to learn from each other and facilitate collaboration and the exchange of information.