

Message to all Members of the European Parliament

Brussels, 7 September 2021

8 years ago, in a Belgian hospital, a biopsy accidentally transferred multiple-resistant bacteria from my gut to my blood. The resulting sepsis ended two days later with a choice to either apply an illegal antibiotic that would kill the bacteria but perhaps me too – or die. I survived. That allowed me to (help) organise tens of conferences and working groups in China, Indonesia, in the European Parliament and online: to help combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Please refer to the website [www.stopAMR.eu](http://www.stopAMR.eu). Please refer to a [special edition](#) of The Parliament Magazine.

This Summer, both Commissioner for SANTE [Dr Stella Kyriakides](#) and Commission President [Ursula von der Leyen](#) recognized this effort in two separate letters. Indeed Commissioner Kyriakides on 25 March 2021 announced during an online Portuguese EU Presidency conference that AMR may be the next pandemic after Covid-19 – but with far more devastating and lasting damage to humans and the global economy.

Yet, still, our educational systems do not manage to teach not even pharmacologists about AMR (see [PowerPoint presentation](#)). In many EU Member States antibiotics are still sold over-the-counter. And veterinarians? They seem to do the work for overproducing (animal) pharma industries by pleading that even critically important antibiotics for humans should still be sold *by them* to – well – to farmers and not to you for your cat or dog as is suggested. This seems to prove two things: 1) that veterinarians – like medical doctors – should not sell anything and certainly not critically important antibiotics; and 2) that antibiotics just like oil, gas, tobacco, sugar etc should be taxed.

While preparing for the upcoming vote on this shortly, may I in fullest modesty ask you to take a minute or two to read the latest [AMR blog](#) on this subject. Thank you very much for your attention.

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Just an EU citizen