

TACD

TRANS ATLANTIC DIALOGUE TRANSATLANTIQUE
CONSUMER DIALOGUE DES CONSOMMATEURS

December 5, 2001

The Honorable Tommy Thompson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
USA

David Byrne
Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection
European Commission
200, Rue de la Loi
Brussels B-1049
Belgium

Dear Secretary Thompson and Commissioner Byrne:

The Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD), which met on December 4 in Washington, D.C., with the US and the EU regulatory officials responsible for food safety regulation, urges your departments to take immediate action necessary to implement two prior resolutions of the TACD calling for a ban on the non-therapeutic and prophylactic use of antibiotics in animals, and certain restrictions on the therapeutic use of antibiotics in animals.

Recent incidents of bioterrorism have reminded the public how important effective antibiotics are. As you know, the non-essential use of antibiotics has been demonstrated to lead to the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

The EU has already banned the use of four antibiotics for use as growth promoters in animals. However, the US Trade Representative has complained that the EU's ban may violate World Trade Organization rules. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed to ban a fifth type of antibiotic (fluoroquinolones). However, the EU Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products issued a report minimizing the importance of the FDA's proposed ban and the Bayer Corporation, which manufactures the drug, is challenging FDA action.

It is time that the US and the EU stop interfering with each others' attempts to protect the public health and instead follow each others' examples. Ultimately, the US and the EU should ban all non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in animals and restrict the

therapeutic use of fluoroquinolones in animals. The US and the EU must place the public health above trade concerns.

Enclosed are relevant TACD policy resolutions and background papers regarding this problem. We look forward to the prompt resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,



Bruce Silverglade
US Co-Chair, Food Working Group



Sue Davies
EU Co-Chair, Food Working Group

On behalf of:

Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer's Choice Council
Consumer Federation of America
Community Nutrition Institute
Consumers Union of the US
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
National Consumers League
Public Citizen
US Public Interest Research Group

On behalf of:

Associação Portuguesa de Direito do Consumo
Associazione ACU- ONLUS
Associazione Consumatori Utenti
Comitato Consumatori Altroconsumo
Consummation
Consumer Committee
Consumers' Association
Consumers' Protection Centre (KEPKA)
Consumentenbond
Coordinamento delle Associazioni per la
Difesa dell' Ambiente (CODACONS)
EKPIZO- Consumers' Association
EUROCOOP
European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)
Federconsumatori
Forbrugerradet
Institut Catala del Consum
KEPKA (Consumers' Protection Center)
Konsument Forum (KF)
National Consumer Council
Stiftung Warentest
Swedish Consumers Association
Test-Achats
Union Federale des Consommateurs-
UFC Que Choisir
Union Luxembourgeoise des
Consommateurs
Verein für Konsumenteninformation (VKI)