

## Fréttablaðið fór rangt með – Ekkert bann samþykkt í Hollandi

Ábending til hlutaðeigandi aðila.

Á vef Fréttablaðsins birtist að kvöldi miðvikudagsins 16. mars s.l. frétt undir fyrirsögninni „[Hollendingar banna blóðmerahormón](#)“. Í fréttinni segir m.a.: „*Neðri deild hollenska þingsins kaus með miklum meirihluta á þriðjudaginn að banna innflutning og framleiðslu á hormóninu PMSG (e. Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin), sem fengið er úr fylfullum hryssum með blóðtöku.*“

Af þessu tilefni vill undirritaður koma því á framfæri að umrædd frétt er röng. Vegna fréttarinnar leitaði undirritaður eftir upplýsingum um sannleiksgildi hennar og bárust fyrir í vikunni tvö meðfylgjandi skjöl sem útbúin voru á ensku.

- Annað skjalið, sem er hér neðar í þessu skjali (*Written report TK topic PMSG 20220221\_auto translate EN*) inniheldur fyrirspurnir frá fulltrúum Dýraflokksins (Party for the Animals group) til landbúnaðar-, náttúru- og sjávarútvegsráðherra sem svaraði með bréfi þann 15. febrúar 2022.
- Hitt skjalið, einnig neðar í þessu skjali (*Two minute debate PMSG Dutch parliament 20220308\_auto translate EN*) inniheldur uppskrift af þeim hluta umræða í þinginu ytra dagana 6.-8. mars, sem varðar blóðtökur úr fylfullum hryssum og dýralyf með PMSG. Umræðunni lauk 15. mars með atkvæðagreiðslu þingsályktunar um flýtingu endurskoðunar á gildandi dýralyfjareglugerð (2019/6), sem tók gildi 28. janúar 2022 og endurskoða á með nýrri reglugerð 28. janúar 2025. Með atkvæðagreiðslunni 15. mars var samþykkt að flýta þeirri endurskoðunarvinnu með það að markmiði að ný reglugerð með endurskoðuðum ákvæðum taki gildi fyrir en 2025.

Eins og fram kemur neðst í síðara skjalinu var ekki um neina samþykkt að ræða um bann við blóðmerahormóni á þinginu í Hollandi eins og Fréttablaðið fullyrti, heldur hvatningu til „**hraðari innleiðingar á kröfum um velferð dýra við framleiðslu dýralyfja**“ (...*faster introduction of animal welfare requirements for the production of veterinary medicinal products*). Þingmönnum þar eins og hér er fullheimilt að álykta um hin ýmsu málefni en mikilvægt er að því sé ekki ruglað saman við nýja löggjöf eins og skilja mátti af fyrirsögn og inngangi fréttar Fréttablaðsins.

Þess má geta að í svari ráðherrans 15. febrúar s.l. til Dýraflokksins, sem krefst sölubanns á PMSG í Evrópu, kom m.a. fram að dýralyf með PMSG séu leyfileg á hollenskum markaði í samræmi við gildandi evrópureglur. Ráðherrann taldi því engan grundvöll fyrir því að afnema markaðsleyfi þessara lyfja á grundvelli þeirra krafna sem Dýraflokkurinn setti fram.

Undirritaður harmar það hve stór hluti frétttaflutnings af blóðhryssum og afurðum þeirra sem birtur hefur verið á seinustu mánuðum hefur verið villandi og vonar innilega að það sé eingöngu vegna handvamma við vinnslu. Allt of algengt hefur verið í þessari hríð að hið rétta sé sveigt til og stundum svo mjög að sannleiksgildið hefur horfið með öllu. Dæmin eru fjölmörg og er e.t.v. nærtækast að nefna þá lífseigu fullyrðingu ýmissa aðila að blóðsöfnun úr hryssum sé bönnuð víða um lönd, nokkuð sem ég hef hvergi getað sannreynt. Mikilvægar vörur eru enda unnar úr blóði dýra mjög víða og eru þær blóðtökur sem stundaðar eru á Íslandi ekki eðlisólíkar þeim sem þekkjast annars staðar. Að lokum vil ég nota þetta tækifæri og ítreka boð mitt um fræðslu um málefnið til handa þeim sem þess óska.

Virðingarfyllst,  
Arnbór Guðlaugsson, framkvæmdastjóri Ísteka. arnthor@isteka.com

## Hollendingar banna blóðmerahormón



Pórgrímur Kári Snævarr  
Miðvikudagur 16. mars 2022  
Kl. 19:57

Neðri deild hollenska þingsins samþykkti bannið með yfirgnæfandi meirihluta. Mynd/EPA

DEILA



Neðri deild hollenska þingsins kaus með miklum meirihluta á þriðjudaginn að banna innflutning og framleiðslu á hormóninu PMSG (e. Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin), sem fengið er úr fylfullum hryssum með blóðtöku.

*Mynd 1 Skjáskot af efsta hluta hinnar röngu fréttar*

### **Written report TK topic PMSG 20220221\_autotranslate EN**

House of Representatives of the States General  
Vergaderjaar 2021–2022

21 501-32 Agriculture and Fisheries Council No. 1380 REPORT OF A WRITTEN CONSULTATION Determined 21 February 2022

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries has submitted a number of questions and comments to the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries about the letter of 27 January 2022 concerning the annotated agenda of the informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6–8 February 2022 (Parliamentary Paper 21 501-32, no. 1370). The questions and comments were submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries on 31 January 2022. The questions were answered in a letter dated 15 February 2022.

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Fertility drug from horse blood

The members of the Party for the Animals group once again draw the Minister's attention to the ongoing animal suffering associated with the production of Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin (PMSG). This fertility drug is produced from blood that comes from pregnant horses. To produce PMSG, horses are systematically made pregnant and exposed to substantial blood draws of up to five liters per week. This is accompanied by health and well-being problems. PMSG is imported from South America and Iceland, among others, but there is also production in Europa. In 2017, these members raised this with the then State Secretary for Economic Affairs. The latter then indicated that he found these practices highly

undesirable. The State Secretary also indicated that he would have a legal basis in four years' time (in 2021) to be able to stop the import of these substances by amending the European Veterinary Medicines Regulation and the "good manufacturing practices" (Parliamentary Paper 21 501-32, no. 963).

The members of the Party for the Animals group note that the changes to the European Veterinary Medicines Regulation and the Good Manufacturing Practices have so far not led to an import and production ban on PMSG. These members also note that there has recently been a renewed fuss about PMSG, after a German report about severe animal welfare problems in production in Iceland. Stichting Dier&Recht has also sent a letter to the Minister about the problematic production in Iceland<sup>1,2</sup>

The members of the Party for the Animals group also note that the European Parliament, in its vision of the Farm-to-Fork strategy, has recently called on the European Commission and the Member States to stop importing and domestic production of (PMSG). Is the Minister prepared to support this call by the European Parliament in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, to actively put this issue on the agenda and thereby to work with other Member States to stop the production and import of PMSG? <sup>3</sup>

Answer

Veterinary medicines are authorised on the Dutch market using PMSG as a raw material. These products are in accordance with the European requirements set out in Directive 2001/82 in Regulation 2019/6. This means that the product meets the requirements of, among other things, efficacy, safety and quality and the use of this product does not pose a risk to food safety. Of course, I find any practice of mistreating animals unacceptable. In the Netherlands, no PMSG is extracted from horses. However, animal welfare is now not a criterion in the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements that have been agreed in a global context and that a producer of raw materials for animal medicines must comply with according to EU regulations. There is currently no basis for removing the market authorisation of these products as veterinary medicinal products on the basis of the requirements laid down.

The new Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation (2019/6), which became applicable on 28 January 2022, includes in recital 68: «Good manufacturing practice for the purposes of this Regulation should take into account the animal welfare standards applicable in the Union and at international level when producing active substances from animals.» These good manufacturing practices (GMP) shall be reviewed by means of an implementing act, which shall be provided for 28 January 2025. Based on this implementing act, requirements can be set for the production of raw materials. The above consideration will be subject to inclusion in the GMP requirements. I support this process and will work for it. However, this requires agreement with the Member States and the European Commission.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.daserste.de/information/wirtschaft-boerse/plusminus/sendung/hormone-vonstuten-fuer-fleischproduktion-100.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dierenrecht.nl/bloedpaarden>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0425\\_NL.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0425_NL.html)

Informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6-8 February 2022

Debate 8 March 2022

Chair: Martin

Bosma Informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6-8 February 2022 The next item is the two-minute debate informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6-8 February 2022 (21501-32, no. 1380).

The Chairperson: The next item is the two-minute debate on the Informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council from 6 to 8 February, Parliamentary Paper 21501-32, no. 1380. We have only four participants from the Chamber side. The first speaker is Mr Wassenberg of the Party for the Animals. Like everyone else, he has two minutes' speaking time. While he is coming here, I would like to welcome the Minister of LNV. Thank you for being with us. I call Mr Wassenberg. Mr Wassenberg (PvdD): Dank, Chairman. I have one motion. The motion is not very compact, but that does allow me to give some explanation. The motion is about a hormone that is extracted from pregnant horses. That hormone is called PMSG. It is a gonadotropin, so a sex hormone. So it is extracted from horses. I will explain that now, so that I do not have to do it again in the motion in a moment. Now comes the motion.

The Chamber, after hearing the deliberations, considering that the fertility agent for animals PMSG is produced with blood from pregnant horses; noting that this is accompanied by serious health and welfare problems, because horses on so-called blood farms are systematically made pregnant and exposed to excessive blood draws of 5 to 10 liters per week; whereas in 2017 the cabinet indicated that it found this practice highly undesirable and committed itself to to set up an amendment of the European veterinary medicines legislation in order to be able to stop the import of PMSG within four years, i.e. by 2021 at the latest; whereas the new Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation obliges the European Commission to impose animal welfare requirements on the production of veterinary medicinal products by 29 January 2025 at the latest, but can also do so earlier; calls on the government to urge the European Commission to speed up the introduction of animal welfare requirements for the production of veterinary medicines beyond the latest date of 29 January 2025; calls on the government to urge the European Commission that these animal welfare requirements will be strong enough to actually stop the import and production of PMSG, and proceeds to the order of the day.

The Chairperson: Dit is de motie die is voorgesteld door de heer Wassenberg. Het nummer is 1385 (21501-32).

De heer Wassenberg (PvdD): Dank u, voorzitter.

[...]

De voorzitter: We gaan nu naar de minister. Ik hoop dat we de moties kort en krachtig kunnen behandelen.

Minister Staghouver: Voorzitter, natuurlijk ga ik mijn best doen. Er zijn nog een paar vragen gesteld. Ik wil daar eerst op antwoorden. Daarna ga ik de moties behandelen, indien dat kan.

[...]

Daarna zijn er de reacties op de moties, voorzitter. De motie van de Partij voor de Dieren over de vruchtbaarheidsgeneesmiddelen vraagt de regering om de Europese Commissie te vragen om de eisen voor dierenwelzijn sneller in te voeren en om de Europese Commissie te vragen om de eisen voor dierenwelzijn zo sterk te maken dat de import en productie van het geneesmiddel wordt gestopt. Het misbehandelen van dieren is voor mij onaanvaardbaar. Ik zeg

very firmly to Mr Wassenberg: unacceptable. In practice, no PMSG is extracted from horses in the Netherlands. I can urge the Commission to introduce animal welfare requirements for the production of raw materials for veterinary medicinal products in third world countries more quickly than 2025. I would like to make the comment that we are stronger in this if we do this with a number of Member States and not just the Netherlands. The Commission can impose requirements on animal welfare in third world countries, but I cannot possibly say yes to the question of whether they are strict enough to stop production for the EU market. I'm going to fight for it. That is a commitment to Mr Wassenberg. As far as the cabinet is concerned, the verdict is up to your House.

The chairman:De motion receives the verdict of the Chamber, Mr Wassenberg.

Mr Wassenberg (PvdD): Yes, Chairperson, but I do have a question.

The Chairperson: Go ahead.

Mr Wassenberg (PvdD):Thank for that judgment chamber. The minister rightly says that he would like to do this together with like-minded countries. He has, of course, already attended the meetings a few times. Does he have an idea if there are like-minded countries and which ones they are?

Minister Staghouwer: No, at the moment I do not have that. But I'm definitely going to make this point again. I will see to what extent we get support for this. The

Chairperson:In the day we will vote on the motions.

Votes Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Votes motions Informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6-8 February 2022The

next item is the votes on motions submitted to the two-minute debate informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6-8 February 2022,

namely:

- the Wassenberg motion on the faster introduction of animal welfare requirements for the production of veterinary medicinal products (21501-32, no. 1385);

[...]

The Wassenberg motion (21501-32, no. 1385) will be put to the vote.

The Chairperson:

I note that the members of the political groups of the SP, GroenLinks, Volt, DENK, the PvdA, the PvdD, Fractie Den Haan, D66, the ChristenUnie, the SGP, the CDA, JA21 and the PVV voted for this motion and the members of the groups of the VVD, BBB, FVD and Groep Van Haga against it, so that it was adopted.

[...]