Antibiotic resistance represents a global public health challenge that has galvanised international organisations including WHO, OIE and FAO. Together, these organisations are closely cooperating as part of the ‘One Health’ concept.

International standards have been adopted and it is the responsibility of the competent national authorities to implement specific strategies taking into account particular national or regional factors.

French public authorities have developed a five-year plan with the dual objective of reducing antibiotic use by 25% and preserving the efficacy of the available therapeutic arsenal. The plan contains 40 measures, hinged around five main themes:

- raising awareness among, informing and training all the stakeholders concerned,
- developing alternatives and promoting research,
- reinforcing the regulatory framework, primarily to reduce inappropriate use,
- monitoring usage and antibiotic resistance,
- developing international cooperation.

Public authorities must ensure good governance of their veterinary services and provide them with a sufficient control capacity, draw up appropriate legislation and regulations and help improve practices, working in partnership with the various stakeholders concerned, particularly vets and farmers. In this respect, veterinary statutory bodies play a major role in the implementation of the plan.