



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

One Health
Antimicrobial resistance, Human nutrition

AMR One Health Network meeting of 1 March 2024

MINUTES

Session with Member States and EU institutions only

1. Implementation of the Council Recommendation – Exchange of national good practices

Presentation on the new AMR Joint Action (EU-JAMRAI 2)

The Netherlands presented the new European Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI 2) including its work packages and anticipated outcomes. The presentation particularly focussed on work package 5 “AMR One Health strategies and National Action Plan (NAP): Member States engagement” which aims to provide direct and sizeable support to help countries in the development, implementation, and update of their NAPs on AMR. The Netherlands presented the proposed actions of the work package, including the engagement in a cooperative AMR One Health Policy Group, and outlined anticipated outcomes of the initiative.

Member State interventions

France, Sweden, Spain, and Belgium presented their approach to implement the Council Recommendation on AMR.

France presented the new AMR One Health inter-ministerial Roadmap on AMR and explained its objectives and coordination with sectorial plans in a One Health approach. Previous and upcoming actions integrated in the French AMR Roadmap include surveillance and monitoring of AMR and antimicrobial consumption (AMC), infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship and prudent use of antimicrobials, research and development and incentives for innovation and access, and cooperation.

Sweden provided an overview of the Swedish NAP, including measures to improve the health and welfare of food-producing animals, better surveillance systems to monitor AMR and AMC, efforts to reach national targets and awareness raising among the public and professionals. Additionally, Sweden informed about the upcoming country visit by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and DG SANTE which aims to provide input on the revision of the NAP, on measures in relation to the environmental sector and on the setting up of indicators for AMR monitoring activities.

Spain presented “PRAN”, the Spanish One Health NAP, which encompasses diverse measures across human health, animal health, and the environment including regulatory frameworks, surveillance systems, and stewardship programs. Moreover, Spain presented its training initiatives and public communication campaigns that play a pivotal role in raising awareness. Spain highlighted further keys to success, including stakeholders’ representation from the beginning, participation in EU/global initiatives, and the setting of measurable and achievable objectives.

Finally, **Belgium** shared its first experience with implementing the EU Council Recommendation, highlighting key issues that were already identified during past policy evaluations following an ECDC country visit in 2017. The current Belgian NAP includes ongoing actions in human and animal health, with a focus on infection prevention and stewardship, the environment and governance. Belgium highlighted key provisions of the Council Recommendation that provide clear guidance for the updating process of NAPs (e.g., including targets and monitoring criteria), but also presented challenges to implementation, such as setting up clear targets for prioritization of actions.

During the discussion, Member States exchanged on measures to ensure the availability of existing antibiotics on the market, the evaluation process of NAPs, and the use of indicators to monitor national progress. Member States also discussed about potential delays in implementing new NAPs due to budgetary constraints and sought to understand if there are any motivational tools at EU-level to persuade ministries to allocate resources to AMR measures. One Member State recognised the value of the Council Recommendation in encouraging voluntary commitment from Member States but noted potential challenges in convincing decision-makers to take actions due to its non-binding nature. The network discussed that involving the Ministry of Finance more frequently would be beneficial and recognized that political support and advocacy at the highest level is crucial to reinforce actions and ensure national-level support for financing.

2. Availability of antimicrobials

Commission actions to address shortages and ensure availability of antimicrobials.

The **Commission** provided an overview of the 2023 Communication addressing shortages of medicines, highlighting past efforts to address challenges with availability of authorised, marketed medicines. By explaining the new proposed solutions within the reform of the EU pharmaceutical legislation, the Commission outlined the concrete EU measures to reach the objectives of managing critical shortages in the short, medium, and long term. In addition, the Commission presented the joint procurement measures to tackle antibiotic shortages. Furthermore, the Commission provided a detailed overview of the Transferable Data Exclusivity Voucher (TEV) for priority antimicrobials, which is part of a broader toolkit to tackle AMR and was proposed as part of the reform of the EU pharmaceutical legislation. Under strict conditions, the TEV allows the developer of a novel antimicrobial to benefit from an additional year of data protection on a product in their portfolio or to sell the voucher to another company. The Commission explained the regulatory incentives and economic considerations tied to the voucher system.

During the discussion, Member States exchanged about the use of incentives for veterinary medicines and the novelty of the voucher system.

Member State interventions

The **Swedish Public Health Agency** presented the Swedish experiences regarding access to antibiotics, focussing on the Swedish governmental commission's initiatives to propose a reimbursement model for new antibiotics and strengthen access to older off-patent antibiotics. The reimbursement model was appropriate and effective to ensure the availability of certain antibiotics by guaranteeing pharmaceutical companies a minimum payment in return for providing the product on the market. Sweden is also conducting a feasibility study on a reimbursement model to provide a buffer stock of certain antibiotic products. Sweden considered that measures along the entire chain are needed for sustainable access to antibiotics, from models to stimulate research and early development to models to launch and maintain products in markets.

The **Czech Institute for State Control of Veterinary Biologicals and Medicines** provided insight into the availability of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) in the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic discussed various factors influencing availability of VMPs, trends observed in the withdrawal of marketing authorizations in the Czech Republic, consumption patterns, as well as examples of shortages from other Member States. Recommendations at Member State, regional and European level include work on identifying the gaps in preventive and therapeutic VMPs per species, sharing of data for countries with similarities and identifying priorities VMPs to be available.

3. Update on the EU Communication Plan on AMR

The **Commission** presented the planned AMR communication actions in 2024. The EU Communication Plan on AMR aims to raise public awareness of the problem of AMR, promote the One Health approach, educate the public on prudent use of antibiotics, and inform about EU actions on AMR. The Commission highlighted the plans for a pan-EU teenager campaign which is targeted at 12–16-year-olds and will be structured around a Fortnite Game tournament. Additionally, the Commission highlighted plans for the development of teachers' toolkits, a communication workshop, and a journalist seminar which aims to engage media professionals in amplifying awareness and disseminating accurate information about AMR.

4. AOB

Presentation of the BE Presidency event on AMR

The **Belgian Presidency** provided an overview of its priorities in addressing AMR, including the development of a policy brief in collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Belgium presented the agenda for the three-day High-level Conference on AMR which will take place on May 6th to May 8th, 2024, in Brussels.

Conclusion

The Commission thanked the Member States for the relevant interventions and fruitful discussions.