



AMR One Health Network meeting of 25 – 26 January 2022

MINUTES

1st half day: session including civil society and professional association stakeholders

1. Welcome and introduction

Opening remarks by Commissioner Kyriakides

In a video message, Commissioner Kyriakides underlined the importance of the AMR One Health Network that brings together the human health, veterinary and environmental sectors to fight together against antimicrobial resistance. She welcomed for the first time representatives of various stakeholders who joined the meeting as part of revamping of the Network. Commissioner Kyriakides announced a Commission's new policy initiative on AMR that will build on the implementation of the 2017 EU AMR Action Plan. By the end of 2022, the Commission will adopt a proposal for Council Recommendations on AMR, and propose AMR provisions as part of the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation. In the long term, the economic and public health impact of AMR might be worse than the current crisis. Commissioner Kyriakides highlighted the need to take concrete coordinated actions in an integrated manner.

2. Panel discussion on “What can the latest EU policy developments do for AMR?”

The Commission mentioned the new legislation on Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) and Medicated Feed, providing very concrete measures to fight AMR in the EU and in relation to imports into the EU, and noted that the Commission intends to provide some financial support to MS for the collection of data on antimicrobials. The stakeholders raised the importance of the need of inter-sectoral training for veterinarians and doctors. The Commission discussed the current review of the National Action Plans (NAPs) and noted the frequent insufficient One Health approach and lack of the environmental dimension in these NAPs. The Commission announced the meetings in the subgroup with Member States to discuss the review of the NAPs in June. The Commission continued by discussing the actions on human health, noting that the EU has less power to legislate in this area (with the exception of surveillance); rather its efforts focus on supporting action for Member States national measures. It

presented EU4Health as the main support instrument for actions against AMR, the plans for a new Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (JAMRAI2) and the several other actions, notably grants on infection prevention and control. The options for incentives to support the development of new antimicrobials were presented, with the voucher system, the pay or play model, and the Netflix model. The Commission noted that some of these incentives could be taken forward in EU legislation while some of them would require an active engagement from Member States.

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) announced that it was working together with other Commission services to identify solutions to incentivise the development of new antimicrobials. HERA discussed the two preparatory actions under EU4Health linked to AMR, on bringing AMR medical countermeasures to the market and on stockpiling of medical countermeasures in the area of AMR. It added that there will also be a call on procurement and responsible management of antimicrobials under Horizon Europe. On the proposed new regulation on serious cross-border threats to health, the Commission explained that the framework was being revised and strengthened, with a more integrated AMR surveillance system, and with a possibility to create EU reference laboratories on AMR in human health. The Commission also proposed that ECDC can review national health crisis preparedness plans and that the EU would have its own EU preparedness plans. The stakeholders pointed out that, in addition to incentivise the development of new antimicrobials, there was a need to improve access to and finding evidence for optimising the use of the entire "toolbox" of existing antimicrobials.

3. AMR activities of the Tripartite Plus organisations (FAO, WHO, OIE, UNEP), in particular the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform / Q&A

The Strategic framework on AMR, the AMR Multipartner Trust Fund and the Global Leaders' Group were first presented by OIE. UNEP presented its work and collaboration with the Tripartite and announced a report on the environmental dimension of AMR for the end of February 2022. It also noted that the inclusion of UNEP in the Tripartite to form a Quadripartite was being discussed, although UNEP is already cooperating with the Tripartite on AMR in practice. FAO introduced the upcoming AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform. The Platform will be inclusive, international, and multi-stakeholder fora, which will bring together relevant stakeholders across the human, animal, plant, and environment interface to assist in preserving antimicrobials as lifesaving medicines and ensuring their responsible use under a One Health approach. It will support concrete actions to combat AMR. FAO noted that the Terms of Reference for the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR had been sent to the Secretary General of the UN and were pending his approval.

Revamping of the AMR One Health Network

The Commission presented planned steps for the revamping of the One Health Network, with the draft of the Terms of Reference as a first step for its formalisation, followed by the call for application to membership and the digital

tool. The digital tool was presented as a way to stimulate new ways to communicate between all members of the network, and candidates were invited to apply to test the tool in a pilot phase. AMR Stakeholder Network members presented the “Joint Statement on AMR” that they have developed under the EU Health Policy Platform, notably advocating for civil society involvement in AMR policy making, a One Health approach to AMR, support to the implementation of NAPs and allocation of EU funds, updating data on AMR burden in Europe, and making full use of EU legislative powers in AMR relevant sectors, with emphasis on cross-cutting priorities such as cancer, the pharmaceutical strategy and HTA. They also presented the Stakeholder Network Roadmap for action on AMR, and the good practices selection exercise undertaken. These further stressed the need for a true One Health approach to encompass AMR aspects in human, animal, and environment interfaces, for inter professional guidelines, preventive measures, and inter-sectoral collaboration, also referring to the importance of the pandemic treaty negotiation for prevention, preparedness and response.

The discussions were punctuated by Slido polls to be answered by the audience.

2nd half day: session restricted to Member States and EU institutions

4. Latest JIACRA (Joint Inter-Agency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis) report and scientific opinion on AMR outcome indicators / Q&A

ECDC presented the latest JIACRA report, noting that most of the report was about understanding the links between antimicrobial consumption and AMR. ECDC highlighted that there has been a significant decrease in antimicrobial consumption in animals, concluding that the measures taken had been effective. ECDC then presented the joint scientific opinion with the 4 primary indicators, noting that the indicators should be reviewed every 5 years and that the data on AMR should be monitored on a continuous basis. Finally, ECDC stated that ECDC and WHO Europe recently published a joint report on AMR surveillance in the WHO European region. The Member States highlighted the need for new indicators and for targets. The Commission concluded by stating that there had been clear results on antimicrobial consumption on the animal health side due to EU action, and that for the human health side it was up to Member States to act.

5. European initiatives on One Health AMR research and innovation / Q&A

The Commission presented the different research programmes and actions linked to AMR. It introduced Horizon Europe and the different European partnerships with public and private partners, such as the Innovative Health Initiative, a follow-up of the Innovative Medicine Initiative with the pharmaceutical, diagnostic, and imaging industries as partners. It also presented global partnerships such as the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP3). The Commission introduced the One Health AMR partnership, for which a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) had been launched and the proposals were currently being evaluated. It will include

international cooperation, also with the Tripartite, G7 and G20, and will build on JPIAMR, One Health EJP and ICARS.

The Commission finally presented the Pharma Strategy for Europe, and work planned in view of the development of pull incentives e.g. via an innovation partnership.

6. Update on AMR related issues in several reviews of environmental legislation / Q&A

The Commission highlighted the relevance of AMR in several new pieces of environmental legislation, such as the Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Chemical Strategy, and the Zero Pollution Action Plan. The strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment was discussed and specific actions on AMR introduced. The Commission stressed that the priority substance list under the Water framework Directive was being revised as well as the list of substances in the Groundwater Directive to include antimicrobials. The watch list is also updated and should include more antibiotics. The Commission also mentioned that the Industrial Emissions Directive would also be evaluated. Actions on wastewater treatment plants were announced, as today there was no obligation to monitor AMR in wastewater treatment plants in receiving waters or at the outlet. Finally, the Commission informed that the evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive was ongoing, and that there would be room for AMR consideration in case of revision.

7. Planned Commission policy initiative on AMR / Q&A

The Commission provided further information on the policy initiative on AMR announced by Commissioner Kyriakides at the beginning of this meeting. The initiative will be comprised of a proposal for a Council Recommendation, AMR provisions included in the revised pharmaceutical legislation package and related chapeau Communication, and factsheets. A proposal to set up a temporary OHN subgroup lead by France who will help inform the policy initiative was then introduced. The Terms of Reference were presented, and the Commission pointed out that Member States interested to be part of the steering committee should express their interest by 15 February 2022. The OHN members agreed on the launch of that subgroup. France introduced the French Presidency High-Level One-Health ministerial conference on AMR that will take place on 7 March 2022, which will identify and discuss unmet needs and priority topics.

8. Update on global developments / Q&A

The Commission updated on two Codex Alimentarius texts on AMR recently adopted: the new guidelines for monitoring and surveillance of AMR and the revised Codex guidance on containment of AMR. It added that a time-limited task force for AMR chaired by South Korea had been set-up and the outcome had been the revision of the code of practice on the prudent use and the extension of the scope, now covering the entire food chain and also extended to cover antimicrobials in plant health. The Commission noted that the EU was more

ambitious than third countries and that, overall, it was a successful process for the Codex where substantial guidance for AMR had been developed. The Commission thanked the Netherlands for leading the Codex work on monitoring and surveillance of AMR.

The Commission also updated on the planned International Agreement on a pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, stating that consensus to launch the process of negotiation had been reached at the World Health Assembly in November 2021. The process will begin in March with the first draft agreement planned by the end of July. Internally, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations. The Commission then stated that the content of the Agreement needs to be ambitious and complementary to the International Health Regulations (IHR), should adopt a One Health perspective and include AMR.

The Commission finally informed of its probable intention to co-finance the Partnership Platform of the FAO as a way to promote the EU strategic interest on AMR. The two topics it proposes for the action groups are the implementation of the Codex Alimentarius guidelines and the revision of the 2015 Global Action Plan on AMR. The Commission invited the Member States to update each other and have a coordinated approach regarding the Partnership Platform.

9. AMR in National Strategic Plans under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

The Commission informed that one of the strategic objectives of the CAP (“protecting food and health quality”) included AMR and that the CAP should also contribute to the Farm to Fork Strategy target of reducing by 50% the sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture in the EU by 2030. To address AMR, the CAP must reward practices that help reduce antimicrobial use. The CAP provides a number of possible interventions and Member States can adapt these to national circumstances; this must be reflected in the so-called National Strategic Plans, which also detail the financial support to farmers. The Commission concluded that there are synergies between NAPs and CAP interventions and that both teams should collaborate.

The discussions were punctuated by Slido polls to be answered by the audience.

Conclusion

The Commission thanked the participants for the positive interactions and reminded that volunteers were needed to test the digital tool of the One Health Network with applications to be sent by the 25th of February. It reminded that the applications for being part of the steering committee of the subgroup should be sent by 15th of February. Finally, it announced the next meeting is planned in September and invited participants to send suggestions for the next meeting.