



Brussels, 23 April 2019

MINUTES

Subject: Meeting of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) One-Health Network – 12 March 2019

1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. After a reminder about the AGM system functioning, the Chair welcomed the NGOs invited to the meeting *i.e.* the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the Council of European Dentists (CED) and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

Three points were added under AOB: (i) a project on One Health approach to AMR in Latvia; (ii) an update of the activities of the EFSA Working Group on the review of the technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food; and (iii) a presentation of the draft recommendations from the UN Interagency Coordinating Group (IACG) on AMR.

The agenda was adopted without further modification.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE HEALTH IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Dr Laguens, President of FVE presented the joint FVE/CED/CPME initiative to implement One Health in under graduate education. After explaining the background of the initiative, Dr Laguens outlined the results of the first open debate held in Paris in December 2018 and in particular the following identified needs: encourage health professionals to work together during their studies; create a One Health culture in education; consider a different model of teaching, avoiding silos; develop One Health Day One Competences; look at possibilities offered by legislation; identify other areas that can benefit from the One Health concept implementation, beyond AMR; and investigate policies to facilitate the One Health culture in universities. This presentation was followed by supporting statements from Dr Landi (President of CED) and Dr De Haller (Past President of CPME). The initiative was very much welcomed by the One-Health Network Members. It was agreed that an invitation to the next regional open debate, to be held in 2019, would be circulated to the One-Health Network Members coming from Member States of that region.

3. JOINT ACTION ON AMR AND HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS - WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE HEALTH NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR AMR

The Netherlands presented the background, objectives and state of play of the Work Package 5 of the above-mentioned Joint Action. Several Members highlighted their interest to step in the process. It was clarified how this work articulates with the One Health visits jointly carried out by the FVO and ECDC and acknowledged that both exercises are complementary and mutually beneficial. Spain took the opportunity to present their experience of the country to country visit of the Netherlands to Spain.

4. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON AMR

4.1. Swedish measures on infection prevention and control in human and animal healthcare

Sweden presented the background and activities carried out to enhance the implementation of infection prevention and control in human and animal healthcare, aiming at reducing the spread of resistance and the need for antibiotic treatment. Sweden also highlighted the work carried out under the Work Package 6 of the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections aiming at implementing evidence based guidelines to prevent catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) using an established implementation model.

4.2. Spanish national database for collection of data on antibiotics prescription

Spain presented the background, objectives and functioning (*e.g.* user profiles, data records, information, search and data analysis) of their national database of veterinary antibiotic prescriptions “PresVet”.

5. RESEARCH RELATED ACTIVITIES

a) Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Swedish Research Council presented the activities carried out in the context of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR). The Swedish Research Council explained in particular the structure of the organisation, the workshops organised, the funded projects in therapeutics research and transmission research and the JPIAMR calls. The Swedish Research Council presented the JPIAMR Virtual Research Institute and concluded by mentioning the next steps and the JPIAMR roadmap of Actions 2019-2023.

b) Initiative to establish an independent International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions

Denmark presented the background of the Danish initiative to establish an International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS). The objectives of ICARS, its scope of activities, the state of play if its development and the next steps foreseen were explained.

6. NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

a) Denmark

Denmark presented its One Health Strategy against AMR and detailed the three goals for antimicrobial use in humans 2017-2020 *i.e.* (i) reduction of the number of re-deemed prescriptions for antibiotics; (ii) change in the use of broad-spectrum to narrow-spectrum antibiotics; and (iii) reduction of the consumption of antibiotics that are critically important for the treatment of infections. The One Health monitoring of antimicrobial use and AMR were also presented. Finally, Denmark presented examples of public-private collaboration, the yellow Card Initiative – thresholds for Antimicrobial Usage in pig, the existing guidance on prudent use and the 2019 FAO report on tackling antimicrobial use and resistance – lessons learned in Denmark, written in collaboration with the Danish Ministry of Environment and Food.

b) Malta

Malta presented the background and structure of its national strategy and interventions against AMR. Malta highlighted the priority areas for action related to (i) legislation and infrastructure; (ii) antibiotic stewardship; (iii) AMR surveillance; (iv) infection prevention and control; (v) training and education; (vi) research and performance measurement; and (vii) international partnerships and collaboration. The immediate actions in the fields of animal health and human health were also highlighted.

c) United-Kingdom

The United-Kingdom presented its key achievements in 2013 – 2018, its vision for AMR by 2040 and the principles and objectives of its five-year national action plan. Actions at international level, in the field of research and related to antimicrobials payment were also underlined.

7. JOINT EFSA / ECDC REPORT ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN ZOO NOTIC AND INDICATOR BACTERIA FROM HUMANS, ANIMALS AND FOOD

EFSA and ECDC presented the main findings of their joint report on AMR in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food – 2017.

8. AOB

a) Project on One Health approach to AMR in Latvia

The Commission's Structural Reform Support Service explained the background and the objectives of the project on One Health approach to AMR in Latvia. The One-Health Network Members were reminded about this possibility for support to develop their national policy on AMR.

b) Draft recommendations from the UN Interagency Coordinating Group on AMR

The United-Kingdom presented and underlined the importance of the draft recommendations from the UN Interagency Coordinating Group on AMR. In particular, the United-Kingdom drew attention to recommendations D1, E1 and E2 addressing the application of a One Health “lens” when making investments; establishing a One Health Global leadership group on AMR with secretariat support and convening an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance in a One Health context report on the science and evidence. The United-Kingdom encouraged other Member States to support these recommendations and lobby for their inclusion in the UN Secretary General’s report. The United-Kingdom emphasised that it does not support the establishment of a new ‘UN AMR’ body but was clear that any new governance mechanism should build on and complement existing governance systems currently delivered by the Tripartite Plus1, accompanied by a streamlined and cost-effective secretariat.

c) Update of the activities of the EFSA Working Group on the review of the technical specifications for AMR monitoring

EFSA presented the mandate, the approach followed and the main outcomes of its work to review the technical specifications on harmonised monitoring of resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from food-producing animals and food. It was announced that these technical specifications will be shortly circulated to Member States for comments.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 15 October 2019.

¹ This includes the Tripartite of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) plus UN Environment.