



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation  
**Performance of national health systems**

## **Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health**

### **Drafting group on Managing antimicrobial resistance across the health system (Virtual meeting)**

**28 January 2022**

#### Minutes

#### **1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved without changes.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The first drafting group meeting on ‘managing antimicrobial resistance across the health system’ took place on 28 January 2022 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted by any member.

#### **3. List of points discussed**

##### **Content of the mandate**

The mandate was sent to drafting group members prior to the meeting. COM (SANTE) highlighted that the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) had been on the policy agenda for many years. A wide range of measures has been put in place to fight AMR and promote a more prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in humans and in animals. COM stressed that it was important to note that AMR was a cross sectoral issue and needed to be addressed at all levels and across all One Health dimensions, acknowledging the interlinkages between humans, animals, plants and the environment.

COM further emphasised that under the EU One Health Action Plan against AMR the Commission adopted the EU Guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in human health. COM stressed that despite various actions there were still challenges in effective implementation of AMR policies across health systems and that the systemic approach for the health system as a whole: looking at institutional, behavioural and structural challenges and opportunities, they did not seem to have been covered in existing studies so far.

COM (SANTE) presented the questions that focus on

- what are necessary systemic elements, conditions and interventions of effective management of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across the health system that could translate into effective policy interventions and National Action Plans,
- how concretely could new technologies help tackle AMR in health systems, where are the areas for most urgent investment across health systems for maximum benefit to tackle AMR?

On environmental aspects COM (ENV and JRC) stressed that, taking into account the One Health dimension of AMR, it was crucial to better understand the role of the environment in the emergence and spread of AMR and what interventions and measures could minimize environmental AMR contamination and interrupt environmental pathways of AMR transmission.

COM explained that the findings and recommendations of the Expert Panel opinion will feed into planned policy initiatives on AMR.

Members acknowledged the complexity and intersectoral character of the topic. They discussed the importance of communication, awareness raising and intersectoral collaboration, prescribing behaviour, role of the primary care.

They mentioned recent publications that could serve as a starting point for the opinion.

A representative from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) pointed at available country visit reports as well as country-to-country (peer-to-peer) reviews of national plans on AMR as part of the EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI).

Members asked for clarification related to the veterinary and environmental aspects to be addressed in the opinion.

COM confirmed that the focus should be on the health system but the veterinary and environmental aspects and the role they play in AMR actions should be taken into consideration in line with the One Health approach.

Some members raised the issue of new antibiotics. COM explained that it was indeed an important element but it was not the focus of the opinion as it is being addressed in the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and through other initiatives.

Members further discussed a possible structure and building blocks of the opinion, including problem definition, designing the strategic framework, policy actions and recommendations focusing on more practical implementation steps.

### **Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group**

Members confirmed Professor Jan De Maeseneer as a chair of the drafting group and Dr Heather-Lynn Rogers and Professor Damien Gruson as rapporteurs.

### **Schedule for the opinion and the drafting group meetings**

Drafting group members agreed on the following schedule:

Drafting group meetings: 18 February, 8 March, April (tbc) May (tbc)

Discussion and reporting on ongoing work in plenary: 21 March

Public hearing: June

Finalisation of the opinion: July

#### **4. Conclusion**

COM will update the mandate reflecting the comments provided by the members. It was agreed that rapporteurs will circulate the initial outline of the opinion.

Members will consider a suggestion to work in small groups according to the sub-topics. The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion.

#### **5. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 18 February 2022 via MS Teams.

#### **6. List of participants**

**EXPH members**: Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Dr Anna Garcia-Altes, Professor Damien Gruson, Dr Dionne Kringos, Professor Lasse Lehtonen, Professor Christos Lionis, Professor Martin McKee, Professor Liubove Murauskiene, Dr Heather-Lynn Rogers, Professor Luigi Siciliani, Dr Jelka Zaletel

**Representatives from the European Commission** (DG SANTE: B1, C3, G5, DG ENV, JRC)

**Representative from ECDC**