



Brussels, 31 October 2019

MINUTES

Subject: Antimicrobial Resistance One Health Network – 15 October 2019

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The European Commission Director for “public health, country knowledge, crisis management” opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Three AOB points were added to the agenda : (i) a presentation from Finland of its hygiene guide for veterinary receptions; (ii) a question from Germany and Austria on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products; and (iii) an information from the Commission about the training on AMR launched in the context of the Better Training for Safer Food programme. The agenda was adopted without further modification. At the request of the Chair, all speakers agreed that the Commission published their presentation on Europa website after the meeting.

2. WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE AMR

The European Commission Director General for DG SANTE gave the opening speech, highlighting the importance of the AMR One Health Network as a key tool to work together to tackle AMR. After an overview of the actions completed so far in the context of the implementation of the 2017 AMR One Health action plan, Ms Bucher called on the Network to suggest areas for further work to tackle AMR.

3. OUTCOME OF WHO/OIE/FAO LATEST MONITORING SURVEY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMR GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

WHO presented the strategic objectives of the Global AMR Action Plan and highlighted several global activities (*e.g.* World Antibiotic Awareness Week, Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS), Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership, Infection Prevention and Control core components, Global Priority Pathogens List of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, updated Essential Medicines List, WHO Competency Framework for health workers). WHO updated the Network on the global progress on AMR in terms of development of national action plans, multi-sectorial collaboration/coordination, awareness raising and understanding of AMR risks, training and professional education on AMR in the human health sector, national monitoring system of surveillance of consumption in humans, national surveillance system for AMR in humans, infection prevention and control in human healthcare, optimized use of antimicrobials in human health. WHO concluded by

underlining some implementation activities, in particular in terms of policy support, resources, training/capacity building, research/projects and surveillance network activities.

Some Members of the Network shared the difficulties encountered during the consultation process and in filling the questionnaire. At the initiative of the Chair, it was agreed to use the next meeting of the AMR One Health Network foreseen in March 2020 as an opportunity to present the structure of the survey and receive feedback from Members of the Network. The feasibility of this alternative is subject to the global timeline for the fourth round of the survey. WHO Regional Office for Europe will explore the feasibility with its Headquarters and report back to the Chair.

4. UPDATES ON EU ACTIVITIES ON AMR

4.1. Council Conclusions on AMR adopted under the Romanian Presidency

Romania presented the objectives and the outcomes of the high-level conference “Next Steps towards making the EU a best practice region in combatting antimicrobial resistance through a One Health approach” organised in Bucharest in March 2019. Romania highlighted the key content of the Council conclusions on AMR adopted in June 2019 under the Romanian Presidency.

4.2. Outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on AMR organised in The Netherlands on 20 June 2019

The Netherlands reminded the overall objectives of the first Ministerial Conference AMR organised in 2014 as well as the international developments to combat AMR. The outcomes of the second Ministerial Conference on AMR held in 2019 were presented. Some key outcomes were underlined such as (i) the twinning process; (ii) the launch of the AMR Multi Partner Trust Fund; and (iii) the exchange of information and knowledge (*e.g.* interactive plenary sessions and study visits of hospital, livestock farming company, museum/laboratory and pharmaceutical company).

4.3. Outcomes of the Chief Veterinary Officers meetings of 15-16 July 2019 and 25-27 September 2019

Finland presented the discussions held at the meetings of the Chief Veterinary officers organised on 15-16 July and 25-27 September 2019 as well as the outcomes of the questionnaire performed with regards to (i) national action plans, best practices and need for a forum to discuss combatting AMR; (ii) promotion of good animal husbandry practices and animal welfare to prevent AMR; and (iii) monitoring and surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial use.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF AMR

5.1. Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

The Commission services presented the background, objectives and the main points of the Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment. The

actions being the most relevant to AMR were highlighted, *i.e.* (i) to increase awareness/promote prudent use of antimicrobials; (ii) to support the development of greener pharmaceuticals and manufacturing; (iii) to improve the environmental risk assessment; (iv) to reduce wastage and improve waste management; (v) to expand environmental monitoring; and (vi) to fill knowledge gaps. The Commission services concluded by giving an overview of the state of play of the actions.

6. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON AMR

6.1. Latvia

Latvia shared its experience on its national activities on AMR. After having highlighted some key figures (*e.g.* in the field of consumption of antibacterials for systemic use, prevalence of use of antibiotics in acute care hospitals, average annual health care expenditures associated with AMR under 100% resistance scenario, death associated with AMR under 100% resistance scenario), Latvia explained the functioning of its Committee on the containment of AMR and the role of the different stakeholders. Latvia also presented its legislative acts and its Public Health Strategy 2014-2020 that includes a “One Health” Plan for Containing Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antibiotics for 2019-2020. Latvia mentioned the activities carried out under the Structural Reform Support Programme, the achievements so far and its priority areas for action. Concerning animal health, Latvia explained the functioning of its working group of containment of AMR as well as the main actions in the area of animal health (*i.e.* monitoring of AMR, collection of antimicrobial consumption data; animal health management; responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials; and education, awareness and research on AMR).

6.2. Bulgaria

Bulgaria presented the background and the objectives of its national action plan against AMR in the veterinary sector, highlighting various activities in the field of (i) awareness raising through information, education and training; (ii) laboratory capacity and research; (iii) knowledge and evidence; (iv) sanitary measures, good hygiene practices and preventive actions; and (v) optimized trade and use of antimicrobials in the veterinary field. Finally, Bulgaria concluded by highlighting the difficulties in terms of resources, including financial resources, to carry out the activities envisaged.

7. UPDATE ON EU AGENCIES ACTIVITIES ON AMR

ECDC presented its outputs in 2018 and its upcoming outputs in 2019. ECDC highlighted in particular the interagency (ECDC, EMA, EFSA) work to prepare the third JIACRA report which will be finalised by December 2020. ECDC highlighted the upcoming European Antibiotic Awareness Day that will take place on 18 November 2019.

EMA updated the Network on its activities recently carried out: (i) ESVAC report 2019; (ii) implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary

medicinal products; (iii) activities of the Antimicrobial Advice Ad Hoc Expert Group (AMEG); (iv) other activities *e.g.* reflection paper on AMR in the environment, activities in the context of TATFAR and a reflection paper under revision on alternatives to antimicrobials.

EFSA presented an update of its activities, in particular in the field of (i) next generation sequencing for risk assessment of foodborne microorganisms; (ii) its self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on the role played by the environment in the emergence and spread of AMR through the food chain; and (iii) its work to evaluate the specific maximum levels of cross-contamination for 24 antimicrobial active substances in non-target feed below which there would not be an effect on AMR, and the levels for which there would be growth promotion/increase yield.

8. AOB

8.1. Hygiene Guide For Veterinary Receptions

Finland presented its concrete protocol to provide practical assistance for the development of hygiene practices at veterinary receptions and for the prevention of the spread of AMR. Finland drew the attention of the Network to the fact that this guide will be available in English in October 2019.

8.2. Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products

Germany and Austria asked whether Member States have one or two separate legislations on medicines for humans and animals and whether this will change because of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products. Most Member States answered by explaining that they currently have two separate legislations and do not intend to change this situation because of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products.

8.3. Better Training for Safer Food programme – training on AMR

The Commission services drew the attention of the Network to the new training on AMR launched in the context of the Better Training for Safer Food programme. A short document describing the training content, the sessions agenda and the procedure to follow will be circulated to the Network after the meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is foreseen in March 2020.