



# EU strategy to fight against Antimicrobial Resistance

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*Health and  
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# EUROPE'S FIGHT AGAINST

# ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

## WHAT IS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)?

### Antimicrobials?

Substances used to treat a wide variety of infectious diseases in humans and animals. They:

- kill micro-organisms
- stop micro-organisms from growing and multiplying

Example: antibiotics



### Antimicrobial resistance?

The ability of micro-organisms to withstand antimicrobial treatments.

Example: MRSA (*meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus*) commonly present on human skin and in mucous membranes



### Why is resistance growing?

- Overuse of antibiotics
- Misuse of antibiotics
- Spread through various routes



### Effect of growing resistance?

- Treatment is rendered ineffective, which poses serious risk to public health

According to data from 2011, **25 000 patients die annually** as a result of infections caused by resistant bacteria in the EU. The costs incurred by drug resistant infections amount to an estimated **€1.5 billion** annually, due to increases in healthcare expenditure costs and productivity losses.



## Political commitments addressing AMR in the EU

- Council Recommendation of 9 June 2009 on the prevention and control of health-care associated infections
- European Parliament Resolutions: 12 May 2011 on antibiotic resistance and 27 October 2011 on the public health threat of antimicrobial resistance
- Council Conclusions on the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector and in the veterinary sector – a "One Health" perspective – 22 June 2012
- EP Report on the Microbial Challenges – Rising Threats from AMR (2012/2041 (INI)) – adopted 11 December 2012
- Dutch Council Presidency Conference on AMR February 2016
- Council conclusions AMR human and veterinary under "one health" expected for the summer

# The European Commission Strategy on AMR

**Communication from the Commission to  
the European Parliament and the Council**  
Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial  
Resistance

COM (2011) 748



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- COM (2011) 748 – 17 Nov 2011
  - 5 year action plan
  - Holistic approach
  - 7 key areas
  - 12 concrete actions



# The 7 Key Areas

1. Ensuring **appropriate use** of antimicrobials in both humans and animals
2. Developing **new effective antimicrobials** or alternatives for treatment
3. **Preventing** microbial infections and their spread
4. **Cooperating with international partners** to contain the risk of AMR
5. **Improving monitoring and surveillance** in human and animal medicine
6. **Reinforcing research** and innovation
7. **Improving communication, education and training**

# The 12 actions

## Human

- 1. *Appropriate use*
- 4. *Prevention of infections*
- 6. *New antibiotics*
- 9. *Surveillance*

8. International cooperation

11. Research & Innovation

12. Communication, education

## Veterinary

2 & 3. Appropriate use

5. Prevention of infections

7. Need for new antibiotics

10. Surveillance



# Appropriate use of antimicrobials

Action n°2: strengthen the regulatory framework on veterinary medicines and on medicated feed

- Revision of the Veterinary Medicines Legislation
- Revision of the Medicated Feed Legislation

➤ Discussion  
Council & EP

Action n°3: introduce recommendations for prudent use in veterinary medicine

- Scientific recommendations on use in veterinary sector of last resort antimicrobials for humans ➤ Completed
- Reduce overall use of AM in veterinary medicine
  - **Guidelines for prudent use** of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine (2015/C299/04) published 11 September 2015 ➤ Completed



## Action n°5: Prevent microbial infections & spread

- Animal Health legal framework based on "Prevention is better than cure"
  - Animal Health Law proposal for a regulation lays down responsibilities on operators, veterinarians and competent authorities
  - Published

## Action n°10: strengthen surveillance systems on AMR and antimicrobial consumption in animal medicine

- Harmonised surveillance systems
  - **ESVAC** project. 2012
  - Decision 2013/652/EU
- Surveillance and monitoring of animal pathogens in the Animal Health Law
- EFSA, EMA and ECDC combined information
  - First Joint Interagency Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA) Report
  - Second JIACRA report expected for mid-2017





# Ongoing evaluation & next steps

## The EU as a best practice region

Support Member States' AMR efforts



Push for Research and Innovation



EU action at international level



Health and Food Safety



# Conclusion

- Fight against AMR : top priority for DG SANTE
- Evaluation: basis to decide on the follow-up
- Availability/quality of data is crucial for success
- Stakeholders' joint responsibility: implement respective actions plans. One health.



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*Questions?*

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