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Minutes

HIGH-LEVEL ONE HEALTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Paris, 07 March 2022





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Meeting Summary

The High-Level One Health Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was held on 7 March 2022 in Paris, as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The French Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Professor Jérôme Salomon, and the French Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Emmanuelle Soubeyran, welcomed their counterparts, the CMOs and the CVOs of the other 26 Member States, and gave the opening speech of the conference.

Also present in Paris were the AMR leads of the EU Member States, in charge of the national action plans, as well as representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and:

- the European Medicines Agency (EMA);
- the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC);
- the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA);
- the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA);
- the World Health Organization (WHO);
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);
- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- the European Union Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI);
- the Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP);
- the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS);
- the Global AMR R&D Hub;
- ReactEurope;
- the Codex Alimentarius.

The fight against AMR, and particularly bacterial resistance to antibiotics, is a priority for the EU and its Member States. By jeopardising the effectiveness of treatment options for even the most common infections, bacterial resistance constitutes a growing threat for global public health, with a direct impact on human, animal and ecosystem health. Bacterial resistance to antibiotics is therefore responsible for over 33,000 deaths in Europe annually and close to 1.3 million deaths worldwide.

Based on the *One Health* approach, the participants discussed the EU's progress regarding this major public health issue and identified the unmet needs at European level, for example in terms of education, infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship and developing common

indicators, in particular based on the recommendations of the EU-JAMRAI, which France coordinated from 2017 to 2021.

The day of work more specifically produced a list of concrete proposals, which will support the efforts of the *AMR One Health Network*, the informal group for collaboration between Member States coordinated by the European Commission, and will bolster the initiative proposed by the Commission to strengthen EU action in this area.

The participants took part in working groups bringing together around 10 representatives from various countries and EU and international organisations, thus providing a suitable framework conducive to discussion and collaboration. The proposals that were discussed in three or more groups were then submitted to a vote from the participants to identify the most consensual recommendations.

The health and agriculture ministers of the EU Member States as well as EFTA countries were then invited to participate remotely to conclude the conference. Professor Céline Pulcini, Head of the AMR Ministerial Mission, representing French Minister for Solidarity & Health Olivier Véran; and Ms. Emmanuelle Soubeyran, CVO, representing French Minister of Agriculture & Food Julien Denormandie, voiced the commitment of France to support EU efforts to combat AMR. Czech Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Jiří Šír; Czech CMO, Pavla Svrčinová; and Swedish Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Lena Hallengren, spoke on behalf of the Trio Presidency.

The Trio Presidency (France, the Czech Republic and Sweden) announced the publication of the "[Trio Presidency Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance](#)", which underscores that AMR is a priority for the Trio for the January 2022–June 2023 period, and suggests prospective avenues for cooperation at European level.

Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, brought the High-Level One Health Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance to a close, mentioning the initiative recently announced by the Commission for stepping up the fight against AMR in Europe.

For more information:

- [Consult the page dedicated to this conference](#) on the website of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union ;
- [Consult the page dedicated to this conference](#) on the website of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health ;
- [Consult the page dedicated to this conference](#) on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food



Event Programme

MONDAY MARCH 7th 2022

High-Level One Health Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

8:15 - 9:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome speech <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jérôme Salomon, <i>Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Ministry for Solidarity and Health, France</i>- Emmanuelle Soubeyran, <i>Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Ministry of Agriculture and Food, France</i>
9:05 - 10:00	High level presentations on unmet needs to be addressed at EU level <ul style="list-style-type: none">- John Ryan, <i>Deputy Director-General of DG SANTE, European Commission</i>- Andrea Ammon, <i>Director of ECDC</i>- Ivo Claassen, <i>Deputy Executive Director and Head of Veterinary Division, EMA</i>- Ernesto Liebana Criado, <i>Head of Biological Hazards and Animal Health and Welfare Unit, EFSA</i>- Hanan Balkhy, <i>Assistant Director-General for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), WHO</i>- Monique Éloit, <i>Director of OIE</i>- Keith Sumption, <i>Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO</i>- Ulrik Knudsen, <i>Deputy Secretary-General of OECD</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Technical presentations on key topics from a One Health perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ <i>Technical Support Instrument project on the lack of availability of off-patent antibiotics</i> - Peter Beyer, <i>Senior Advisor, WHO</i> → <i>EU-JAMRAI main conclusions and unmet needs</i> - Marie-Cécile Ploy, <i>Medical doctor and researcher at University of Limoges - Coordinator of EU-JAMRAI</i> → <i>How to improve citizen participation and health democracy to fight antimicrobial resistance</i> - Sarah Wiener, <i>Member of the European Parliament</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break



10:45 - 12:15	<p>Brainstorming - Workshop 1</p> <p>→ <i>The aim is to come up with a limited number of priorities to be submitted to the European Commission.</i></p>
12:15 - 14:00	<p>Lunch and group photos</p>
14:00 - 14:10	<p>Video of the speech of the French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation</p> <p><i>Frédérique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France</i></p>
14:10 - 15:30	<p>Workshop 2</p> <p>→ <i>Presentation of the results of the workshops. Vote on the recommendations.</i></p>
15:30 - 16:45	<p>Ministerial sequence</p> <p>→ <i>Welcome speech</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Céline Pulcini, Head of the AMR Ministerial Mission–Ministry for Solidarity & Health, France</i> - <i>Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Ministry of Agriculture & Food, France</i> <p>→ <i>Speeches</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Pavla Svrčinová, Chief Medical Officer – Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic</i> - <i>Jiří Šír, Deputy Minister – Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic</i> - <i>Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health & Social Affairs of Sweden</i> <p>→ <i>Presentation of the ten most consensual priorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Cédric Prévost, Head of division, Ministry of Agriculture & Food, France</i> - <i>Candice Altmayer, Project Lead, French Presidency of the Council of the EU – Ministry for Solidarity & Health, France</i> <p>→ <i>Speech</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Céline Pulcini, Head of the AMR Ministerial Mission– Ministry for Solidarity & Health, France</i> - <i>Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Ministry of Agriculture & Food, France</i>
16:45 - 17:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p><i>Stella Kyriakides – Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission</i></p>



Recommendations & Voting Results

All participants were invited to reflect on the following question: "**What concrete actions should be prioritized in the next three years in order to meet the unmet needs in the fight against antimicrobial resistance at the European level?**".

The recommendations that were discussed in three or more groups were then submitted to a vote in order to identify the most consensual proposals. You will find below the voting results, as well as all the recommendations that were discussed in the working groups.

These proposals will help support the discussions of the subgroup of the *AMR One Health Network* dedicated to submitting recommendations to the Commission in the context of its AMR policy initiative, with the aim to strengthen EU actions on this topic.

For detailed voting results, please consult the "poll results" document sent along with the minutes.

The 10 most consensual proposals

Participants were asked to grade recommendations from 1 to 10, 1 being a recommendation not considered to be helpful in any way, 10 being a recommendation that participants believed should be urgently implemented at EU level.

1. **Improve data collection and surveillance systems at EU level** by developing stronger real-time surveillance tools and high-quality data on the use of antimicrobials and the appearing resistance to antimicrobials at human, animal and environmental levels. [Score : 8.1](#)
2. **Develop common EU indicators and measurable goals** on the use of antimicrobials and on AMR, notably by updating and strengthening the 2017 ECDC, EMA and EFSA indicators and ensuring their active use at Member State level while ensuring that the objectives are differentiated according to the different national contexts. [Score : 8.0](#)
3. **Continue to support the development and implementation of national action plans**, and monitor and publish Member States progress. [Score : 7.7](#)
4. **Support the development of communication tools** and the sharing of best practices between Member States to raise individual and public awareness on AMR and the One Health approach. [Score : 7.6](#)



5. **Support farmers** to improve husbandry and animal welfare through the common agricultural policy. [Score : 7.6](#)
6. **Develop rapid diagnostic tools and rapid antibiograms** for health professionals in the animal sector, to prevent misuse of antibiotics. [Score : 7.6](#)
7. **Improve the coordination of EU efforts at international level** to support low and middle-income countries in fighting AMR. [Score : 7.5](#)
8. Reinforce **understanding** and strategies of **behavioural changes**. [Score : 7.5](#)
9. **Secure the supply of antibiotics** in the EU, notably through a strategy implemented by HERA. [Score : 7.4](#)
10. **Include an environmental component in the National Action Plans**. [Score : 7.4](#)

The other proposals submitted to the vote

- **Pursue efforts to improve coordination and collaboration between EU institutions and international organizations** working on human, animal and environmental health, notably the newly created One Health Tripartite + (WHO, OIE & FAO - UNEP).
- **Support educational tools on AMR**, both for citizens and professionals in human, animal and environmental health, such as the e-bug tool.
- **Develop harmonized EU guidelines**, similar to the 2008 Cancer guidelines, to set common objectives and precise recommendations in order to streamline capacities of EU member states (e.g. *avoid antibiotics use as prevention, ensure similar HR capacities in MS, common guidance for screening hospital patients etc.*).
- **Increase HR capacities** by financing the training of AMR professionals through EU Cohesion and Structural funds, and by defining a minimum level of training for health professionals on AMR.
- **Develop a common ambitious AMR framework** or agreement at EU level.
- **Display a pictogramme** « This is an antibiotic », on antibiotic packages.
- **Establishing a network of supervisory bodies** at the EU level to support the implementation of best practices.



- **Introduce reciprocity** for importing products from third countries.
- **Ensure that Member States are better aware** of the different funding opportunities that the EU can provide on AMR.
- Include AMR challenges in the **EU Pharmaceutical strategy**.
- **Rank critically important antibiotics** depending on their impact in the environment.
- **Include AMR in the pandemic instrument** currently negotiated at international level.
- **Reinforce governance of IPC and AMR stewardship** in a One Health perspective.
- **Improve cooperation with the economic sector and manufacturers to promote stewardship**, and integrate procurement standards and safeguards in a One Health perspective.

All other recommendations discussed in the working groups

“One Health” recommendations

Education/Communication/Training

- Change behaviour through motivation (to motivate changes of practices for professionals) and education of both citizens and professionals at all ages.
 - o Strengthen health workers training and raise awareness of the civil society with effective and simple communication programmes to change behaviour and promote good practices.
 - o Inform, educate and train all target groups from all sectors and finance it.
- Define a minimum level of training for health professionals regarding IPC.
- Enhance knowledge management at EU level so the public awareness can be strengthened.
- Invest into trained human resources/staff; make their carrier path more attractive, with specific responsibilities and missions.
- Organize One Health training programmes.



- Support the development of communication tools and the sharing of best practices between Member States to raise public awareness on AMR and the One Health approach.
- Find a new word/term to integrate the two big notions of antimicrobial stewardship on one side and infection prevention and control on the other, in one.
- Develop a career path on IPC.
- Increase the attractiveness of AMR-related jobs, including of paramedics and paraveterinarians.

Data collection/Surveillance/Indicators/Targets

- Create a data policy regarding surveillance: define sources, quality and data integration.
- Create a One Health working group on data and metadata.
- Improve and harmonize the surveillance system, including molecular technics.
- Improve data collection and surveillance systems at EU level by developing stronger real-time surveillance tools of the use of antimicrobials and the appearing resistance to antimicrobials at human, animal and environmental levels.
- Improve surveillance by using digitalization to interconnect data from human, animal and environmental health sectors, as well as from the socio-economic data to analyze the impact of policies.
- Report on MS achievements of EU AMR targets.
- Support data collection and analysis on the use of antibiotics.

Research/Development

- Develop a public leadership in investments and research (to develop alternatives to antimicrobials).
- Increase the state of the art surveillance methodology including database interoperability and improvement of digital data quality.
- Strengthen specific funding for the creation of evidence/business case for mitigation of AMR transmission "implementation research".
- Explore alternatives to antimicrobials without dismissing them completely
- Improve lab capacities (guidance) and increase antibiograms usage.
- Encourage the exchange of information between labs as well as increasing their resources.
- Promote research strategy on alternatives to antimicrobials.
- Develop medical, economic studies for diagnostic tools and to improve the capacity building to properly use a diagnostic tool and harmonization of diagnostic methodology.
- Better link diagnostic, antibiotic prescription and feedback mechanisms.



Resources

- Increase resources to fight against AMR at the EU level.
- Stress financial issues, to help deal with the EU MS's ministries of finance and to promote the fight against AMR.
- Address the budgetary imbalance between human and animal health in the fight against AMR at national, European and international level.

Outreach outside the EU

- Close the technological gap within and beyond the borders of the EU.
- Ensure that the EU includes AMR in its global development agenda.
- Have the EC devote development cooperation funds for NAPs implementation in middle-low income countries.
- Improve the coordination of EU efforts at international level to support low and middle-income countries in fighting AMR.
- Harmonize the implementation of the regulation on AMR and manage the equivalence with the Third countries.
- Place AMR as an issue for development cooperation, not only for health.
- Networking within EU and with non-EU countries to support them in improving their fight against AMR with exchanging experiences.

Pharmaceutical sector

- Implement a strategy for antibiotic's security of supply in a "One health" focus.
- Encourage that Summary product characteristic (SPC) are updated according to the clinical guidelines and the best scientific evidence in a OH approach.
- Establish mechanisms to ensure a timely, equitable, affordable access to antimicrobial agents.
- Cooperate with the economic sector/producers to promote stewardship, good practices and to support the availability of vaccines and essential antibiotics.
- Reinvest in European production sites of APIs to maintain availability of antimicrobials.
- Support the development of alternatives to antimicrobials with a focus on market authorization (new regulatory tools, research transfer: from fundamental research to innovative products).

Governance/Guidelines

- Develop a Directive on AMR (holistic and preventive incentives), to set mandatory measures, harmonized for all the EU countries.
- Have a guideline saying that diagnostic tools should be used and/or other alternatives should be considered (if available) before using every antimicrobial.
- Reinforce governance and initiatives on One Health IPC and AMS.



- Strengthen collaboration at all levels (disciplines and organization level, private and public sectors, cooperation).
- Improve and strengthen governance and accountability at all levels.
- Promote good practices by learning of the lessons from the implementation of national action plans (NAPs).
- Moving from strategy to implementation: sharing best practices regarding how to raise awareness and advocate at a political level.
- Set common goals for human and animal sectors (implying common indicators) while agreeing for adjusted measures (bring people to understand what is the OH concept).
- Support the formulation of national action plans and targets to reach.
- Create or identify leverages and/or incentives to enforce and ensure national implementation of each member states action plans.
- Expand the AMR One Health Network to invite periodically CMO and CVO levels.
- Clarify the inter-service governance within the European Commission concerning AMR, to make sure Member States know whom to reach out.
- Develop a method to concretize/implement the recommendations to actual policy.
- Prefer small targets that are achievable than broad ones, more difficult to achieve.

“Human Health” recommendations

Education/Communication/Training/Behaviour

- Reinforce understanding and strategies of behaviour changes, including better data.
- Develop public campaigns on the consumption of antibiotics.
- Address socio-cultural determinants.
- Fund campaigns for raising awareness on AMR for the public (to increase literacy and give them tools to pressure governments and the Commission).
 - o Increase individual awareness of AMR.
 - o Raise awareness of citizens through education of children and students, and through campaigns.
 - o Make education about AMR a priority (financing and accountability).
 - o Strengthen awareness of AMR at the level of citizen.
- Increase HR capacities by financing the training of AMR professionals through EU Cohesion and Structural funds, such as the funds used to train oncologists.
- Revive tools for schools (similar to e-bug) to give reusable and easy-to-use tools.
- Support the development of courses at the future WHO academy on AMR and Global Health.



Data collection/Surveillance/Indicators/Targets

- Develop harmonized guidance for screening hospital patients.
- Develop indicators with identified targets to improve antimicrobial stewardship.
- Have more data on antimicrobial consumption at the EU level.
- Monitor further and better AMR in hospitals.
- Mutualize communication on prevention aiming at fighting AMR and other diseases or health trouble.
- Set more specific reduction targets on AMU and AMR for Human Health (like in animal health, farm to fork strategy).
- Introducing clear targets or indicators (especially exposure indicators) at the EU and national levels in human health that would enable to compare member states.

Research/Development

- Define and innovate an *end to end* process to develop antimicrobials, from research to access.

Outreach outside the EU

- Strengthen the EU's role on the prevention of infectious diseases in low middle-income countries and focus on health systems strengthening.

Pharmaceutical sector

- Develop a pharmaceutical strategy at the European level to fix use and disposal of antibiotics.
- Facilitate unit dispensing of antibiotics across the EU.
- Update the SPC of "old antibiotics" at the EU level for ensuring a more rational use of antibiotics through a specific action plan.
- Establish new incentives for the development of new antibiotics that seek to separate the cost of R&D from prices and sales volumes through delinkage, including the need of transparency and securing of the supply chain.
- Ensure sustainable access to antibiotics.

Governance/Guidelines

- Develop or revise/update the AMR national action plans that have been budgeted, financed, implemented within a timeframe and ensure that accountability, sustainability and governance of AMR NAPs should be at national level.
- Establish a network of supervisory bodies at the EU level to support the implementation of best practices, especially for human health.



- Have a common and strict definition (in human health) of antimicrobials at the EU level (to avoid loopholes and products sold without prescriptions or not labelled as antimicrobials).
- Have guidelines and provide evidence to countries for the implementation in human health of a new market-model for diagnostic tools (to suppress the barrier faced by professionals regarding the efficient usage of these tools).
- Have provisions as part of the SPC on antimicrobial stewardship (ex: only after having performed a rapid test, if they are available) by updating the Human directive 2001/83 (example of the Vet Med Directive 2019/6).
- State that antimicrobial products whose use is banned inside the EU should not be manufactured and sold outside the EU by EU companies.
- Develop electronic prescriptions of antibiotics.
- Include AMR into the pandemic treaty supported by WHO.
- Put more efforts on antibiotic use in long-term facilities.
- Developing EU guidelines, similar to the 2008 Cancer guidelines, to set common objectives and precise recommendations to streamline capacities of EU Member States.

“Animal Health” recommendations

Education/Communication/Training

- Continue reducing the consumption of antibiotics in collaboration with the farmers. To educate them to prevention, good management practices in animal production (animal welfare) and alternatives.
- Rethink how we breed and keep animals (including through genetic aspects) in order to improve prevention and Implement prudent use.
- Include IPC in animal health.

As well as the following recommendations also highlighted in the “Human Health” section above:

- *Reinforce understanding and strategies of behaviour changes, including better data.*
- *Develop public campaigns on the consumption of antibiotics.*
- *Address socio-cultural determinants.*
- *Fund campaigns for raising awareness on AMR for the public (to increase literacy and give them tools to pressure governments and the Commission).*
 - o *Increase individual awareness of AMR.*
 - o *Raise awareness of citizens through education of children and students, and through campaigns.*
 - o *Make education about AMR a priority (financing and accountability).*
 - o *Strengthen awareness of AMR at the level of citizen.*



- *Support the development of courses at the future WHO academy on AMR and Global Health.*

Data collection/Surveillance/Indicators/Targets

- Develop binding reduction targets for AMU on farm animals at the EU level.
- Surveillance of animal pathogens (EARS-vet + VetCAST) at European and global level.
- Address data collection challenges in animals (including pets).

As well as the following recommendations also highlighted in the “Human Health” section above:

- *Develop indicators with identified targets to improve antimicrobial stewardship.*
- *Have more data on antimicrobial consumption at the EU level.*

Research/Development

- Develop diagnostic tools and quick antibiograms to be used on the field by animal health professionals (“as simple and rapid as the ones for Covid-19”) to avoid misuse of antimicrobials.
- Supporting innovation and production of new antibiotics, diagnostic kits, vaccines and alternatives in veterinary medicine such as phage therapy.
- Promoting research on the effects of biocides and feed additives on AMR.

Outreach outside the EU

- Engage countries outside the EU: develop a strategy of influence at the international level to promote EU best practices elsewhere and to stop the use of antibiotics as prevention.
- Give financial support to farmers to improve husbandry and animal welfare through the common agricultural policy.
- Set an equivalent to Maximal Residue Limit (MRL) for AMR in food.
- Ensure the implementation of biosecurity and good management to avoid the use of unnecessary antibiotics as well as improving hygiene.
- Set binding national targets based on health status of use in animals; address other factors, such as role and responsibilities of the veterinarians and the related incentives to prescribe.
- Introducing reciprocity for imported products from third countries.
- Set measures in case AMR is detected in food chain.



“Environmental Health” recommendations

Data collection/Surveillance/Indicators/Targets

- Integrate procurement standards and safeguards (environmental, economic aspects).

Governance/guidelines

- Increase the involvement of public environment actors (by creating/designing an AMR department in each minister of environment).
- The emission of antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents to the environment should be minimised. The upcoming revisions of the Industrial Emissions Directive and the Wastewater Directive provide us with the opportunity for taking action against pharmaceutical pollution. The introduction of environmental requirements in the Good Manufacturing Practice framework can target production in third countries. Environmental aspects should also be considered in the revision of the pharmaceuticals legislation.

Research/Development

- Promote environmental research and monitoring of AMR.

