



# Health threats and the European Commission

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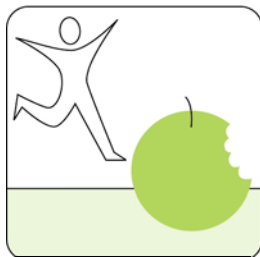
Public Health and Risk Assessment Directorate  
Health and Consumers  
Directorate-General  
(DG SANCO)

# Health and Consumers DG

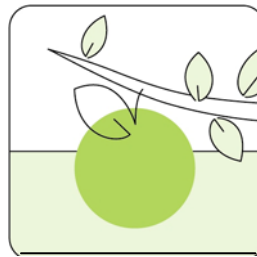
DG SANCO

DG de la santé et des consommateurs

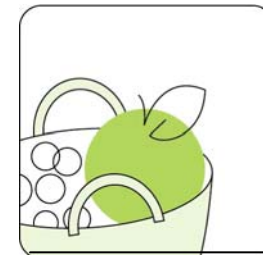
Europe working for healthier, safer,  
more confident citizens



Public Health



Food safety



Consumer Affairs



## EU legal framework on health

### The treaty on European Union and the treaty establishing the European Community

- Article 152 (Public health article) in Title XIII Public Health
  - European Commission shall encourage cooperation between the Member States
  - Member States shall, in liaison with the Commission, coordinate among themselves
  - The Commission may, in close contact with the Member States, take any useful initiative to promote such coordination (i.e. Public Health Programme)
  - Setting high standards of quality and safety of organs and substances of human origin, blood and blood derivatives (Directives)
  - The Council may also adopt recommendations from the Commission set out in this Article (e.g. cancer screening, Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), smoking in public places)
  - The Commission shall fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care

# Health threats

## Surveillance, reporting and prevention of communicable diseases

- Network on communicable diseases
  - Council decision 2119/1998 Early Warning and Response
- Early Warning and Response System (EWRS)
  - Council decision 97/2000 Early Warning and Response
- ECDC
  - Council regulation 851/2004
- International Health Regulation (IHR) link between EU system and IHR alerts

## Other EU legal framework related to health

The treaty on European Union and the treaty establishing the European Community

- Title VI Common rules of competition, taxation and approximation of laws
  - Article 95 (Internal market) legal basis used for tobacco directives, for example
- Title XIV Consumer protection
  - Article 153
- Title XVIII Research and Technological development
  - Articles 163-173

# Health threats

- Surveillance, reporting and prevention of communicable diseases
- Exercises, preparedness planning
- Health Security
- Mainstreaming health threats in other policies
- Health Programme (in collaboration with EAHC)

# Health threats

## Surveillance, reporting and prevention of communicable diseases

- Revision of legal framework for integrated EU health threats approach (all threats including CBRN)
- Vaccine policy coordination
- Pandemic flu preparedness
- Tuberculosis
- AMR (Antimicrobial resistance)
- ECDC
  - Steering bodies
  - Regular coordination meetings
  - EWRS administration (by ECDC)
  - Weekly communicable diseases Threats report
  - etc

# Health threats

## Exercises, preparedness planning

- EU Public Health Crisis management
    - HEOF (Health emergency operations facility)
  - Training and exercises
  - Generic preparedness planning
    - GPP Technical guidance document
    - Communicators' network
    - Stockpiling
  - Climate change
  - Bio-security
    - "Bridging security and health: Towards the identification of good practices in the response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) incidents and the security of CBRN substances"
  - Modelling
- 



## Pandemic H1N1 2009

- Red alert 27 April, orange alert since 27 May
- Regular audio conferences with MS, ECDC, WHO
- In order to ensure coherent messages, actions etc from all EU (incl. EEA and EFTA) Member States*
  - Situation updates and reports, Case definitions, General information on prevention, Personal protective measures, Travel advice, Passenger contact tracing, Leaflet to the public, Vaccination strategy, etc
- Health Security Committee communicators' network
- GHSAG, MoH (USA), CDC (USA)
- COM Communication Pandemic H1N1 2009 (COM (2009) 15.9.2009)
  - Joint procurement of vaccine
  - Communicating with the public and media
  - Support to third countries
  - Regulatory process for the authorisation of antivirals and vaccines
  - Vaccination strategies

# Training and exercises

## ■ HEOF training and tests

- Regular training of HEOF staff (Luxembourg and Brussels)
- Test of HEOF tools

## ■ Member State training

- Train the trainer (tools)
- Bridging security and health

## ■ Exercises

- Table top
  - Situational awareness exercise 2008
  - United Horizon 2008 (HEDIS)
- Command post
  - New Watchman 2005 (smallpox)
  - Common ground 2005 (pandemic flu)
  - Aeolus 2008 (Aflatoxin)
  - Tor 2009 (pandemic flu), changed to evaluation of Pandemic H1N1 2009





# Technical guidance document

## Generic Preparedness Planning

- Information management
- Communication
- Scientific/evidence based advice
- Health crisis management structures
- Health sector preparedness
  - Incident management outside hospital
  - Hospital preparedness
  - Special aspects on biological, chemical, radio-nuclear and climate change events
- Inter-sectoral collaboration
- Management of plans

# HSC Communicators' network

## ■ Mandate

- Focus on crisis communication, including communication preparedness aspects
- Communicate about measures taken by crisis managers, health related recommendations and risk management

## HSC Communicators' network

- Assignment and responsibilities
  - Provide expertise and guidance
  - Exchange experiences and best practise
  - Help in defining an overall strategy
  - Monitor media reactions
  - Coordination of risk and crisis communication
    - All parties retain their ability to communicate independently
  - Coordination of messages (*Lines to take*)
  - Ensure coherence with ECDC risk assessment and related communication activities
  - Link with the GHSAG communicators

# Stockpiling

- Stockpiling of medicinal products workshop February 2008
  - preparation of specific guidelines and provide examples of good practice related to stockpiling from individual Member States
  - evaluation of potential benefits of reviewing the legislation on medicinal products (i.e. special legislation for stockpiled medicinal products) as well as consideration amending medical devices regulations, if relevant

# Climate change

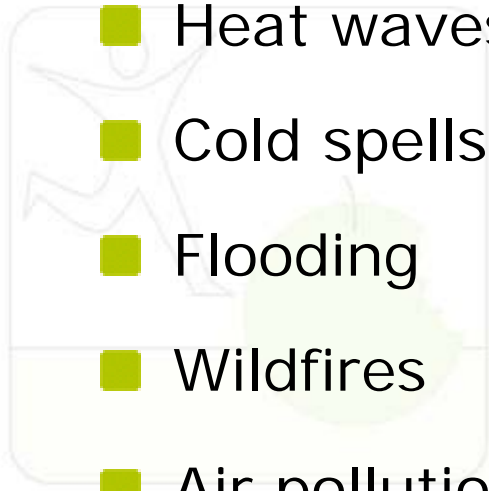
- Public Health
- Individual Health
- Occupational Health
- Animal Health
- Plant Health



# Climate change

## Extreme weather and health

- Heat waves
- Cold spells
- Flooding
- Wildfires
- Air pollution
- Water availability



# Climate change

## Human health aspects

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- Morbidity and mortality
  - Food-borne diseases
  - Vector-borne diseases
  - Water-related issues
  - Air quality
  - Air allergens
  - Ultraviolet radiation
  - Mental diseases
  - Increased migration due to climate change

# Health threats

## Health security

- Health Security Committee
- Global Health Security Initiative
- Laboratories (bio-security)
- Research on health security





# Health Security Committee HSC

- Council conclusions 17 December 2001
  - Informal cooperation and coordination body by Health Ministers and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection
- Council conclusions 22 February 2007
  - Transitional prolongation of the HSC mandate 2007-2009
- Council conclusions 16 December 2008 (after informal Health Ministers meeting Angers, 8-9 September 2008)
  - Provide HSC with legal basis
  - Legislative initiative to adopt the status of HSC to the health challenges



# Health Security Committee

## Strategic work plan 2008-2010

- Detection, Information Management and Communication
- Threat and Risk Assessment
- Advice
- Managing a Crisis
- Preparedness
- Inter-sectoral and International cooperation
  - Communication on global health security
- Evaluation and testing of plans

# Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI)

## ■ Launched 2001

- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom, USA
- European Commission
- WHO (observer)

## ■ Aim

- A platform for G7 countries, Mexico, European Commission and WHO to exchange information and share experiences on ways to address chemical, biological and radio-nuclear (CBRN) threats

# Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG)

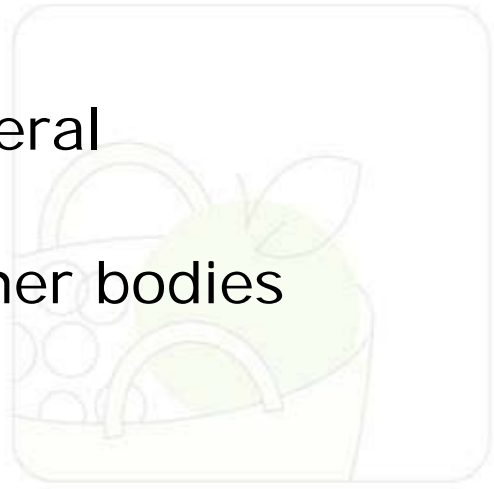
## ■ Projects

- Field Epidemiology and Outbreak Investigation
- Public Health Aspects of Radiological and Nuclear Threats
- Research collaboration
- Capacity Building and Training for Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Medical countermeasures
  - development of new vaccines
  - Stockpiling of medical devices
  - Logistics for treatment chains

# Health threats

## Mainstreaming health threats in other policies

- Cooperation with other Directors General
- Cooperation with EU agencies and other bodies
- International cooperation



# Health threats

## Mainstreaming health threats in other policies

### International cooperation

- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Pandemic preparedness guidelines, International Health Regulation (IHR), Generic preparedness planning etc
- Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI)
  - Exchange information and share experiences on ways to address chemical, biological and radio-nuclear (CBRN) threats
- Australia group
  - Informal forum of countries fighting the spread of chemical and biological weapons through national export control measures
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
  - Civil emergency planning
- Others

# Health threats Health Programme

## ■ Annual Work Plan

- Call for proposals for projects
- Call for tenders
- Joint actions by the Community and Member States
- Operating grants (e.g. NGO networks)
- Direct grant agreements with international organizations (WHO, OECD, etc)
- Conferences
- Other activities (e.g. JRC)
- Scientific committees

## ■ € 321.5 million suggested budget for 2008-2013

- 2010 € 47 million suggested budget

# Budget estimation WP 2010

<b>Financing instruments</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>% of operating budget</b>
Projects	12 331 600	27,6%
Call for tenders	15 945 000	32,7%
Joint Actions	10 800 000	23,0 %
Operating grants	1 750 000	3.7%
International organisations	3 800 000	8,1%
Conferences	800 000	1,7%
Other activities - JRC	1 250 000	2.6%
Scientific Committees	270 000	0.6%
<b>Operating budget</b>	<b>46 946 600</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Health Security I

- **Transversal priorities:** Prevention and control of existing or emerging communicable diseases; Preparedness for health emergencies; Response capacity against CBRN attacks. Support for priority actions of Health Security Committee.
- **Develop prevention & control of communicable diseases:** Communication campaigns & training on specific diseases – TB, hepatitis, seasonal influenza, H1N1; TB control; Immunisation coverage
- **Improve preparedness & response to health emergencies:** Supporting preparedness for crises; Developing information tools, exchange of information & data collection mechanisms; Early detection of health threats; Reinforcing collaboration between sectors; Supporting adaptation to climate change
- **Enhancing response capacity:** Supporting reference laboratories & improve assessment of toxic materials & radioactive threats; Reinforcing global health security capacity
- **Prevention in relation to patient safety:** Best practises & tools; Training to health care professionals and health educators