



***Arboviral infections (including  
West Nile virus) and their impact  
on public health in Europe***

European Commission

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## ***Background (1)***

- The problem
  - Recent epidemic in US
  - Impact on public health (morbidity, mortality, clinical aspects, risks, travel and transportation, prevention and control, etc)
- The role of Public Health Directorate



## *Background (2)*

- Knowledge
- Report WNV infections through the existing EWRS
- Expertise
- Standardised approaches



# *What should the public health in Europe address? (1)*

- Added value for EU?
- Need for improving knowledge?
- Need for dynamic exchange of information?
- Need for surveillance at EU level?
- Need to standardise the diagnostic methods?



## ***What should the public health in Europe address? (2)***

- Need for a co-ordinated effort in surveillance and response?
- Need for a consensus on best practices?
- Need for a co-ordinated effort with the research programs?



## ***Specific questions to be answered (1)***

- What's the actual situation of WNV epidemic in US? Lesson learnt for Europe?
- What's the impact of arboviral infections on human health? Are the arbovirus a relevant threat to health in Europe?
- State of art in lab diagnosis: what are the major needs?
- Need for surveillance system(s)? If yes, with which kind of strategy?



## *Specific questions to be answered (2)*

- Need to address the risk of transmission with blood transfusion, organ transplantation and plasma-derived medicinal products?
- Need for vaccination?
- What's the lesson learnt considering the different country experiences?



## ***How to obtain an added value for EU?***

- Creating a common knowledge
- Exchanging information in a dynamic way (process)
- Responding in real time to potential threats
- Using a common data set for different purposes



# ***What should the public health in Europe address? (What the mandate for EU?)***

- **Need for improving knowledge**
- **Need for dynamic exchange of information**
- **Need to strengthen the communication with the public**
- **Need for surveillance at EU level (projects)**
- **Need to standardise the diagnostic methods**
- **Need to bridge with other disciplines**
- **Need for sharing expertise**