



## **Audio conference of the HSC**

**24 February 2016, 10:00 to 12:00 (CET)**

### **Flash report**

#### Meeting objectives

- The European Commission convened an audio meeting of the Health Security Committee (HSC) to discuss the state of play of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and updated documents and new supporting documents prepared by the ECDC on the latest developments of the Zika outbreak.

#### Antimicrobial resistance

- ECDC provided an update on the situation regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the EU/EEA highlighting the spread of carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae as an issue of particular concern. ECDC will produce a rapid risk assessment on this issue and will also update HSC members on AMR surveillance and suggestions for improvement.
- The Netherlands informed HSC members on the Netherlands Presidency ministerial Conference on AMR which took place 9-10 February in Amsterdam. The conference confirmed very strong commitment from Member States to the one-health approach. There was also broad support for more explicit transparency on the objectives and targets to be achieved on AMR at EU and national levels. Conclusions of the conference and the draft outcome document will be input to Council conclusions to be adopted by health and agriculture Councils in June 2016. NL will keep the HSC informed on progress on the discussions of the draft Conclusions in the Council Working Parties. The first working party meeting will take place 16 March.
- Progress on evaluating the EU action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance was reviewed. The report of the evaluation is expected in April 2016. The Commission services will produce a staff working document during the second half of 2016 which will pave the way for future actions on AMR.
- The HSC received information about the forthcoming Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare associated infection which aims to support the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans on AMR through collaborative activities across the EU. The Joint Action activities will be decided on and carried out by competent authorities designated by Member States. It will be co-funded by EUR 4 million from the EU health programme. SANTE will convene a meeting to assist interested Member States to prepare for the Joint Action.

## Zika virus

- The updated RRA prepared by ECDC was discussed during the meeting. The members of the HSC made comments and received answers to specific questions from ECDC.
- The HSC discussed the need, proposed by Germany, to create an ad-hoc working group or expert platform on Zika virus in order to prepare HSC decisions, support Member state cooperation on risk management, and clarify technical issues, in the light of the mandate of the HSC.
- Several questions and issues were raised on the technical document with elements on "Information EU citizens travelling to affected areas" as revised by ECDC; the discussion will therefore continue at the next meeting.
- The technical document on "Interim guidance for health care providers" did not receive any comment during the written procedure and was endorsed.
- The discussion on the Zika case definition and on surveillance was postponed to the next meeting. Several comments were made on the draft papers prepared by the ECDC and will be addressed in the meantime before the next discussion. In response to Belgium, information will be provided separately to HSC members on measures taken regarding blood safety and organs and tissues at EU level.

## Follow-up actions

- A further HSC audio meeting on Zika will be convened in the near future. It will discuss terms of reference for a mandate of a possible ad-hoc working group (a draft will be prepared and circulated by DG SANTE in advance of the meeting), Zika surveillance and elements of information to travellers.
- The *Chair* congratulated Austria for the signature of the Joint Procurement Agreement on medical countermeasures.