



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Crisis management and preparedness in health

Audio conference of the HSC

27 October 2016, 14.30 – 15:30 (CET)

Flash report

The Chair welcomed the members of the Health Security Committee (HSC) as well as representatives from DG SANTE, ECDC and WHO. The Agenda of the meeting was approved.

1. Zika virus epidemic

The Chair pointed out that since the beginning of the Zika virus outbreak the HSC has discussed several risk assessment documents. The outbreak has spread to new parts of the world, namely parts of South-East Asia, which together with other new developments is reflected in the draft update of the Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) prepared by ECDC.

ECDC gave an update on the situation and outlined the draft 9th update of the RRA. The discussion centred on the revised travel information in the document and the evidence base behind it. Appropriate, timely and coordinated communication to the public is essential, particularly in view of the coming tourist season in South-East Asia.

The Chair concluded that on view of the urgency of the matter due to travel from the EU to South East Asia, the Commission will convene a meeting of the HSC Ad-hoc Working Group on the Zika virus epidemic and the Communicators Network to discuss risk communication based on the updated RRA. This risk communication would of course be revised continually as the situation evolves.

2. Extensively drug resistant Tuberculosis (XDR TB) cluster - Romania- discussion of ECDC RRA

ECDC outlined the RRA on the cluster of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in Romania and updated on the contact tracing. UK and FI further informed regarding the cases which the contact tracing protocol has identified on their territory.

The Chair underlined the conclusion of the RRA that “More cases may be expected in association with this cluster [and] it is therefore important to trace all contacts of any additional cases in order to identify and treat active cases and provide preventive treatment or monitoring for those diagnosed with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI)”. It was concluded that the HSC has taken note of the update and would keep the situation under review.

3. Colistin resistant enterobacteriaceae

ECDC gave an update on the surveillance of colistin resistant enterobacteriaceae and referred to the conclusions and options for response detailed in the RRA published on 13 June 2016. DG SANTE informed that the European Medicines Agency updated its advice on the use of colistin in animals in July 2016, and that the prudent use of antibiotics in livestock is included in its Member State fact-finding missions. It was concluded that the HSC has taken note of the update and needs to reflect further on the modalities for taking forward its work on colistin and other aspects of antimicrobial resistance.