



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

## **Workshop**

### **Seeking new partnerships for EU action on vaccination**

Square Brussels Meeting Centre  
Coudenberg 3 – 1000 Brussels  
30 and 31 May 2017

## **PROGRAMME**

Vaccination is one of the most important public health tools of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and has led to the eradication of small pox, elimination of poliomyelitis from Europe, and dramatic decrease of mortality and morbidity of communicable diseases preventable by vaccination. It is estimated that worldwide vaccination prevents 2.7 million cases of measles, 2 million cases of neonatal tetanus, and 1 million cases of pertussis each year. In Europe, seasonal influenza vaccination prevents around 2 million cases each year. However, vaccination programmes are facing challenges, such as a decline in vaccination coverage in some countries, the increasing cost of new vaccines and shortages in supply. In addition, misconceptions about vaccination can further shift the public focus from the individual and collective benefits of vaccination to increased distrust and fear of possible side effects.

In this challenging and complex environment, the added value of involving all stakeholders within the EU and working with global partners to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of vaccination programmes is clear.

This workshop aims to launch an action-oriented discussion to explore how cooperation at EU level can increase vaccination coverage, address shortages and strengthen routine immunisation programmes. It will bring together EU institutions including the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Member States and Members of the European Parliament, key international organisations (WHO, UNICEF), industry, as well as healthcare professionals, patients, civil society, academics and the scientific community. Background papers on key topics will serve as a basis for interactive and multi-disciplinary discussions where all stakeholders will be asked to contribute. Each interactive session will be kicked off with impulse statements from different stakeholders proposing ideas for collaborative work and partnerships.

## 30 May 2017

19:30

Kick-off dinner, hosted by Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General, DG SANTE

*Entrance: Ravenstein 2 – 1000 Brussels*

## 31 May 2017

08:30 – 08:45

### Registration

*Entrance: Coudenberg 3 – 1000 Brussels*

08:45 – 09:00

### Opening: EU action on vaccination – collaboration and convergence

Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

09:00 – 10:45

### Session 1: Vaccine hesitancy – new partnerships to tackle growing hesitancy in the EU

Facilitator: Andrea Ammon, Director ECDC

#### Impulse statements:

- Robb Butler, Programme Manager, Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization (VPI), Division of Communicable Diseases and Health Security, WHO Euro
- Emilie Karafillakis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Gary Finnegan, Editor, Vaccines Today
- Pierre Van Damme, Professor, University of Antwerpen
- Peggy McGuire, European Institute of Women's Health
- Giovanni Rezza, Research Executive Director, Italian Health Institute

*It is a paradox that one of the main threats to vaccination is its success. As many vaccine preventable diseases are now very rare in Europe, this influences the risk perception in the population and the perceived value of vaccines. Furthermore, misconceptions about side effects are leading to distrust and fear on their safety. This session will join forces to find new solutions to the old problem of vaccine hesitancy.*

10:45 – 11:15

### Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45

### Session 2: Sustainable vaccine policies in the EU – promoting access

Facilitator: Benoit Vallet, Director General, French Ministry of Health

#### Impulse statements:

- Aurora Limia, Spanish Ministry of Health
- Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC

- Andrea Rappagliosi, President of Vaccines Europe
- Fergus Sweeney, Head of Inspections and Human Medicine  
Pharmacovigilance Division, EMA

*The continued success of routine immunization and access to vaccination depends on a comprehensive national vaccine programme and its implementation. In this respect routine immunization often faces questions related to the transparency of evidence-based decision-making, availability of data on the impact of vaccination programmes and financial sustainability of vaccination programmes in the context of reduced public health budgets. In recent years vaccine shortages have been reported in many European countries. The mismatch between supply and demand and the need to develop robust forecasting and planning tools is evident. The use of digital and e-health tools can be useful in this respect.*

**12:45 – 13:45**

**Lunch**

**13:45 – 14:45**

**The global picture**

*Three presentations which highlight the global dimension of vaccines*

- Philippe Duclos, Senior Adviser, WHO, WHO: *Global vaccine action plan – where we are today and how we will meet the goal (10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A)*
- Heather Deehan, UNICEF Supply Division: *Perspective of the biggest procurer of vaccines – what are the challenges? (10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A)*
- Johan van Hoof, Global Head IDV R&D, Vaccines, Managing Director Janssen Vaccines and Prevention, representing Vaccines Europe: *Vaccines, The industry response to the vaccines challenges in the global setting (10 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A)*

**14:45 – 15:15**

**Coffee break**

**15:15- 16:45**

**Session 3: Making vaccine research & development more effective in the EU**

Facilitator: Line Matthiessen, Acting Director, Health Directorate, DG RTD

Impulse statements:

- Gerd Sutter, Professor, Institute for Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses, LMU University of Munich
- Emmanuel Hanon, Senior Vice President and Global Head R&D, Vaccines, GSK, representing Vaccines Europe
- Frank Follmann, Director of the Department of Infectious Disease Immunology, Statens Serum Institut
- Brigitte Autran, Professor, Centre d'Immunologie et Maladies Infectieuses (CIMI-Paris) UPMC

- Adam Finn, President, European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID)

*Europe has traditionally been the major player in vaccine research. Public research programmes, from the Commission and Member States, as well as the industry, have invested substantially in vaccine research and development (R&D). Despite substantial funding and policy initiatives, the European vaccine R&D field faces continuous challenges related to advances in vaccinology, emergence of other players and shifts in public attitude to vaccines.*

**16:45– 17:30**

**EU Action - the way forward**

- Adina-Ioana Vălean, MEP, Chair, Environment and Public Health Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament
- Tiiu Aro, the General Director of the Health Board, Estonia
- Xavier Prats Monné, Director General, DG SANTE, Director-General, DG SANTE