

The EU Ministerial Conference on the “Next steps towards making the EU a best practice region in combatting Antimicrobial Resistance through a One Health approach” on 1st March 2019, under the Romanian EU Council Presidency, discussed the following points, of which several received broad support:

- Next steps against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and strengthening infection prevention and control (IPC) should reinforce the implementation of current policies and existing commitments at EU and international level based on a One Health approach.
- The spread of drug-resistant infections is recognised as a cross-border threat to health and requires a coordinated, inter-sectoral and strengthened response.
- Barriers to the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on AMR and IPC measures should be investigated and analysed at policy and clinical levels in order to identify effective solutions.
- The implementation of policies and existing guidelines to address AMR should be improved and adapted to the specific context and needs of countries.
- Additional good practice guidance in the areas of AMR and IPC should be developed to assist national and local level action on AMR.
- EU regulation on the use and sales of antimicrobials, particularly internet and over-the-counter sales should be considered.
- Setting measurable targets, at EU and/or national level, and the use of appropriate indicators should be encouraged to improve effective implementation of measures and monitor progress of NAPs.
- EU and national efforts should focus on reducing inequalities in capacity and action on AMR and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) between and within Member States, respectively.
- Bilateral (twinning projects) and multilateral collaboration between Member States should be enhanced to facilitate sharing of best practices and expertise and support countries in the implementation of their NAPs, IPC and antimicrobial stewardship programmes. At an EU level, the existing structure of the AMR One Health Network could be expanded and better utilised to facilitate inter-country cooperation.
- Investing in antimicrobial stewardship and IPC should be prioritised, considering the cost-effectiveness and long-term economic benefits of these targeted public health interventions.
- The use of EU structural and agriculture funds for national, regional and local investment in action on AMR and IPC should be facilitated to reduce gaps in implementation between Member States.
- Adequate training of professionals across sectors and allocating sufficient human and financial resources in the development and implementation of action on AMR and IPC, at policy and clinical level in Member States, should be prioritised.
- Coordinated communication strategies should be developed and effectively implemented at EU and national level in case of resistant infection outbreaks.
- Strengthened surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial consumption in both the human and animal health sectors is needed to monitor the emergence of AMR and to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken.



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- Further work is needed to improve the availability and access to existing effective antibiotics while at the same time, developing the research agenda to identify and develop alternatives to antimicrobials, new antimicrobials, vaccines and improved diagnostics, guided by the principles of accessibility, efficiency and affordability.
- Improved information and research on effective policies to support human behaviour change to combat AMR is also needed in addition to further research on improved economic analyses and management, governance and other techniques, in order to ensure effective AMR policy implementation at EU, national and local level.