



# Keynote address AMR - where do we stand?

General Assembly

Joint Action on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated  
infections EU-JAMRAI 2

12-13 March 2025

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# AMR – a continued priority for the EU

# AMR political priority - Commissioner Mission Letter

## *Mission Letter from President von der Leyen to Olivér Várhelyi –*

*Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare*

- *continue the work on **anti-microbial resistance (AMR)** as one of the major threats to health, working with Member States to reach the 2030 targets*

### *Other areas of relevance to AMR:*

- *Completing the European Health Union*
- *Build on the One health approach*
- *Proposal for Critical Medicines Act*
- *Conclude work on the pharmaceuticals reform*
- *New European Biotech Act*
- *Implementing & evaluating framework for medical devices*
- *Enforcement of food safety standards*



# EU and AMR policy background

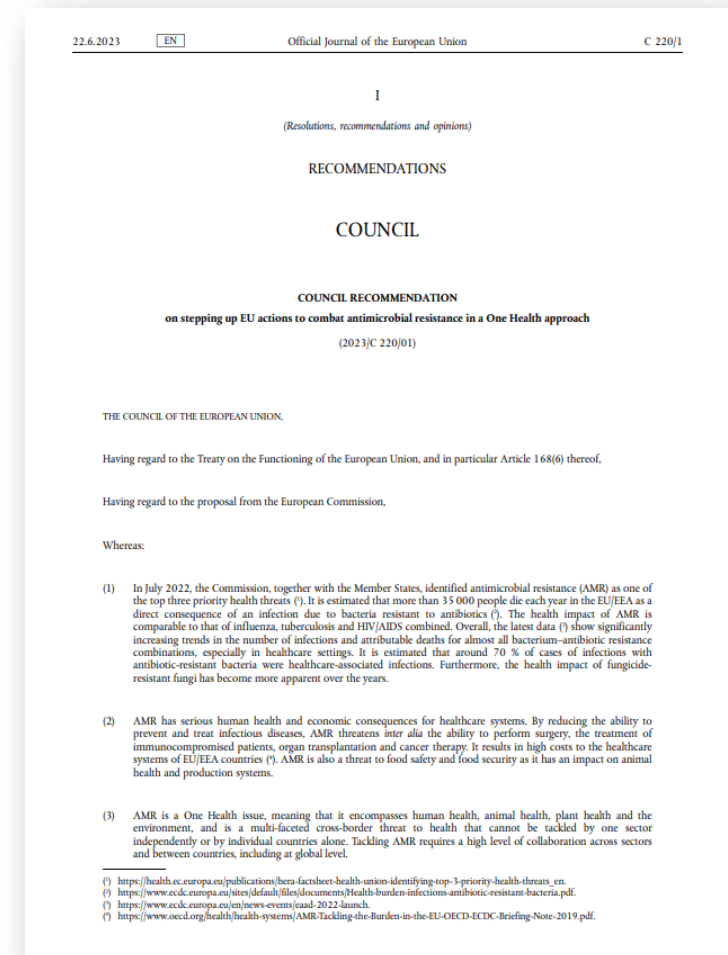
- 2001 Community strategy against AMR
  - 2001 Council Recommendation on prudent use of antimicrobial agents in human medicine
  - 2009 Council Recommendation on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections – producing two implementation reports and supporting a joint action on patient safety through the EU health programme
- 2011-2016 Commission Action Plan
- 2017 EU One Health Action Plan against AMR
  - 2017 – EU Guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials in human health
  - 2019 – Publication of Regulation on Veterinary Medicinal Products including concrete measures combatting AMR
  - 2019 – European Court of Auditors recommendations
- 2023 Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach



# 2023 Council Recommendation on AMR

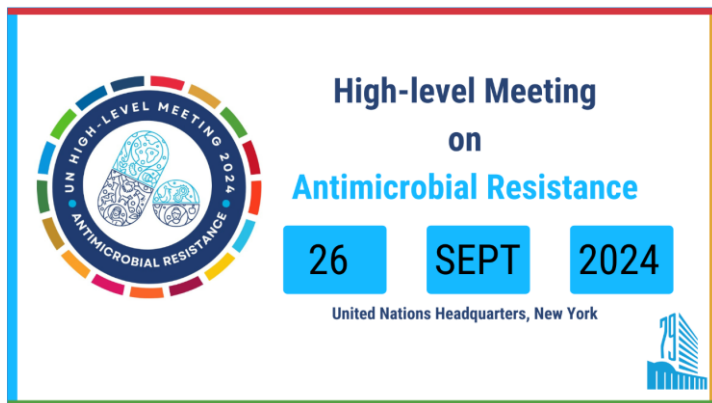
## Key areas:

1. Strengthening national AMR action plans
2. Reinforcing surveillance and monitoring of AMR and antimicrobial consumption (AMC)
3. Strengthening infection prevention and control
4. Strengthening antimicrobial stewardship and prudent use
5. Recommending targets for AMC and AMR in human health
6. Improving awareness, education and training
7. Fostering R&D, innovation incentives and access to antimicrobials and AMR relevant medical countermeasures
8. Increasing cooperation
9. Enhancing global actions



[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023H0622\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023H0622(01))

# UNGA High-Level Meeting & Jeddah Process



## Outcomes of Political Declaration

Commitments and targets across seven key areas, including:

- 10% **global deaths reduction** by 2030 (4.95 million deaths, 2019 baseline)
- 70% of antibiotics to come from the AWaRe Access Group
- 90% of countries meet **WHO IPC requirements**
- 80% of countries can **test bacterial and fungal resistance**

Follow-up actions:

- Quadripartite to update **Global Action Plan by 2026**
- Quadripartite to establish **Independent Panel in 2025**
- UN Secretary-General to provide implementation report
- Next **High-Level Meeting on AMR in 2029**

## Jeddah Ministerial Conference – Nov 2024

- Steps for taking UNGA commitments forward

# AMR and international developments

**Transatlantic Taskforce on AMR - TATFAR:** EU-US cooperation now also including Canada, Norway and the UK. Workplan 2021-2026 and in-person meeting in Nov 2023

## EU 'Global Health Strategy' - 2022

### G7 – Canadian Presidency

- AMR in health tract, with focus on pull incentives

### G20 – South African Presidency

- Not currently featuring

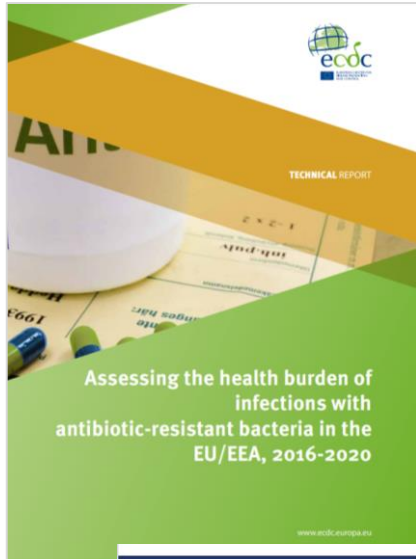
### Pandemic Agreement – under auspices of the WHO

- Ongoing negotiations with deadline for May 2025
- Current text proposals contain AMR under prevention (article 4)
- EU strong advocate for provisions on prevention, One-Health and AMR



# Where do we stand?

# Health burden of infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria by country, EU/EEA, 2016-2020



- In 2020 in the EU/EEA:
  - More than **800,000 infections** with antibiotic-resistant bacteria
  - More than **35,000 attributable deaths**
  - More than **1 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost**
  - More than **70% linked to healthcare-associated infections**.
- This burden:
  - Remains comparable to that of influenza, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined
  - Increased between 2016 and 2020, although there was a small decrease in 2020 compared to 2019
- According to OECD the **economic burden is estimated at EUR 11.7 billion (PPP)**: EUR 6.6 billion extra health expenditure and EUR 5.1 billion reduced productivity gains
- Investing **EUR PPP 3.4 per capita per year** in a mixed package can prevent nearly 613 000 infections, avoid more than 10 000 deaths, save more than EUR 2.5 billion in health expenditure and yield around EUR 2.3 billion in productivity gains

# EU AMR targets

Baseline 2019; target year 2030

**Reduce by 20% the total consumption of antibiotics in humans**

- Defined daily doses (DDDs) per 1 000 inhabitants per day

**At least 65% of the total consumption of antibiotics in humans belongs to the 'Access' group of antibiotics**

- As defined in the AWaRe classification of the WHO

**Reduce by 15% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)**

- Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 10% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with third-generation cephalosporin-resistant *Escherichia coli***

- Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 5% the total incidence of bloodstream infections with carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae***

- Number per 100 000 population

**Reduce by 50% the overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030**

Levels in 2023



+0.6%

61.5%

-17.6%

-3.6%

+57.5%

**Legend:**

**Green** – target reached;

**Yellow** – progress but target not reached;

**Red** – regress (moving away from target)

EMA to publish 2023 sales data by the end of March 2025 and 2024 sales data by the end of December 2025

# Recent policy developments

# Major policy developments at EU level

## One Health

### Human health

- Surveillance: revising the list of notifiable diseases at EU level, including AMR and HAI
- New EURLs in public health: EURL-PH-AMR
- AMR/HAI under Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA) visits
- IPC Guidelines (work in progress) + Guidelines on treatment of major infections
- AMR as part of revision of EU pharmaceutical legislation

### Animal/Plant Health

- First year of new data collection system for sales and use of antimicrobials in animals
- Restrictions of certain uses of antimicrobials in animals and measures for safe use
- Training of veterinarians and farmers on the prudent use of antimicrobials
- Joint EU agencies report on the impact of use of non-medicinal azoles on the development of azole-resistant *Aspergillus* spp.

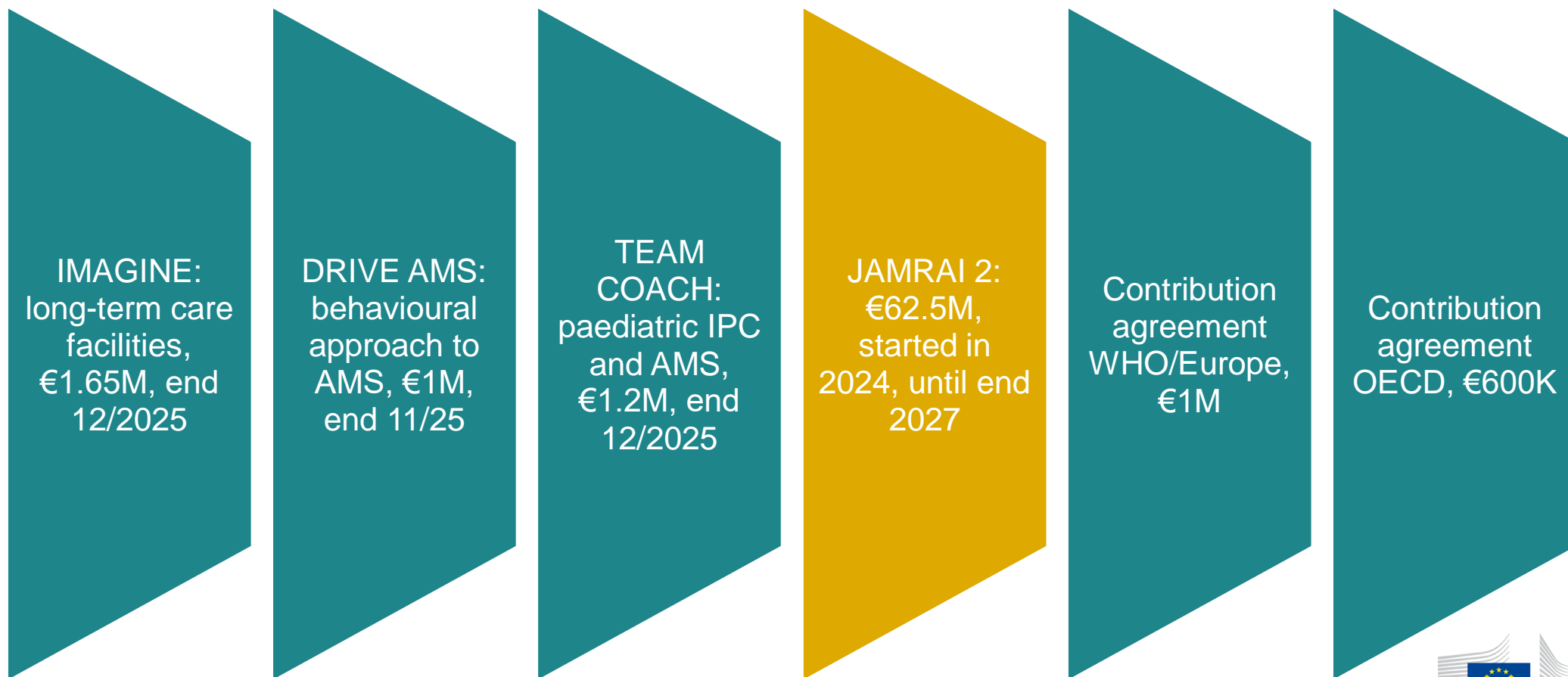
### Environment

- AMR monitoring under Recast Urban Wastewater Directive
- On-going trilogue on water pollutants that will amend the WFD 2000/60/EC, the Groundwater directive 2006/118/EC and the Environmental quality standards directive 2008/105/EC

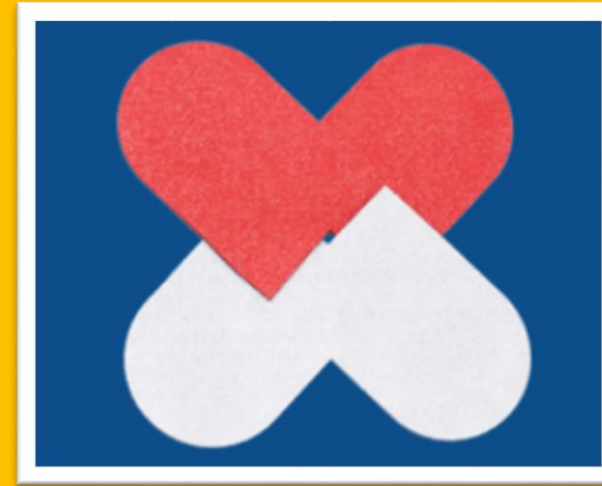
- Communication: Fortnite game launch
  - JIACRA integrated analysis
  - One Health AMR Network
- EU agencies AMR working group

# Funding: EU4Health

EU4Health: Total to date invested in AMR in public health over EUR 55 million



# Thank you



Antimicrobial Resistance Symbol from EU-supported JAMRAI



<https://health.ec.europa.eu/antimicrobial-resistance>

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