



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Regional Committee for Europe
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resolution

European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA51.17 on Emerging and other communicable diseases: antimicrobial resistance, WHA58.27 on Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance and WHA62.15 on Prevention and control of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis;

Acknowledging Member States' existing commitments and the ongoing work under the WHO Global Strategy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as the fact that task forces and informal networks at global and regional levels are aiming to address elements of the challenges posed by antimicrobial resistance (rational use of antimicrobials, surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, etc.);

Concerned by the increasing emergence of antibiotic resistance, including against last-resort antibiotics such as carbapenems, and the lack of research and development of new antibiotics;

Further concerned that the death toll due to resistant bacterial infections acquired in hospital is more than 25 000 people each year in the European Union alone, leading to increased health care and societal costs;

Taking into consideration the facts that bacterial resistance and hospital-acquired infections are closely linked and that comprehensive measures to improve infection control and stewardship of antibiotic use call for an integrated approach in health care settings;

Recognizing that infection control practices, and especially hand hygiene, are very cost-effective interventions to prevent many infections and antibiotic resistance;

Recognizing further that antibiotic resistance will occur when antibiotics are used, but particularly when they are overused or misused, that antibiotics are used not only in human health but also extensively in food animal production, and that information on consumption is lacking from many countries;

Mindful that over-the-counter sales of antibiotics are common in many countries and that education on the prudent use of antibiotics is missing or insufficiently addressed during medical and medical science training;

Aware that there is increasing evidence of the close link between the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance between humans, animals and the environment and that possible solutions should address all sectors;

Recognizing that surveillance of and information about antibiotic resistance in bacterial infections and antibiotic consumption is scattered and incomplete;

Having considered the European Strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance;¹

Aware that multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis has very high prevalence rates in some countries and should be included in most of the comprehensive approaches as outlined in the European Strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance;

1. ADOPTS the European Strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance as a strategic intersectoral framework in the WHO European Region for implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance;

2. URGES Member States² in the WHO European Region to:

¹ Document EUR/RC61/14.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations

- (a) ensure political commitment and resources to implement the WHO Global Strategy for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance through European Strategic action plan for antibiotic resistance, identifying key national priorities from the seven strategic directions in the European Strategic action plan and developing national plans;
- (b) analyse the national situation of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use in a comprehensive approach covering the community, health care settings and food animal production;
- (c) support the development of national systems for surveillance and monitoring of antibiotic resistance and consumption;
- (d) initiate and formalize national intersectoral and all-inclusive coordinating mechanisms, linking to national professional associations, patient safety groups and other relevant nongovernmental actors;
- (e) review and ensure adherence to national recommendations for infection control in health care settings;
- (f) develop cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, academia and other relevant sectors to address research and development of new antibiotics and diagnostic tools to contain antibiotic resistance;
- (g) support national campaigns that raise awareness of the causes of antibiotic resistance, including through participation in an expanded European Antibiotic Awareness Day;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

- (a) continue to exercise leadership in addressing the public health importance of antibiotic resistance and provide tools, guidance and technical support to Member States;
- (b) support Member States³ in assessing their current situation with regard to antibiotic resistance, antibiotic consumption, and their capacity to develop and implement national action plans;
- (c) facilitate exchanges of information and Region-wide analysis of trends and drivers of antibiotic resistance, including through the creation of regional platforms for sharing and analysing data;

³ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations

- (d) in collaboration with Member States⁴, engage in regional and global partnerships in efforts to foster the regional mobilization of human and financial resources to improve national and regional capacities to contain antibiotic resistance;
- (e) engage with regional partners in reviewing and promoting tools and guidance on the use of antibiotics outside human populations and supporting innovation and research into antibiotic agents and diagnostic tools;
- (f) engage with relevant non-governmental organizations and patient safety groups to foster heightened awareness of antibiotic resistance and the importance of prudent use of antibiotics;
- (g) report to the Regional Committee on the progress made in implementing the European Strategic action plan each year until 2014 and every second year thereafter, with final reporting in 2020.

⁴ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations