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**ENSH – European Network for Safer Healthcare
Patterns to tackle AMR:
Designing effective HAI prevention and control programmes in Europe**

European Parliament, Brussels, 29th January 2019



A roundtable was organised to discuss the growing problem of AMR (antimicrobial resistance) and the need for HAI prevention and control to tackle AMR. There is an undeniable link between HAIs (Healthcare Associated Infections) and AMR. To reduce the occurrence of HAIs, effective programmes need to be designed and implemented, involving all stakeholders in a joint struggle to save lives and reduce the economic costs related to HAIs and AMR.

More than half of HAIs are considered avoidable through prevention and control programmes.

The urgency of the matter made MEP Lieve Wierinck, rapporteur on the action plan against AMR in the European Parliament, declare: "... if we don't act now, more people will die from AMR than from cancer by 2050".

The use of antibiotics needs to be strictly defined (only when needed and with a correct dose).

The need for tackling the occurrence of HAIs in operation rooms (SSIs - surgical site infections) and with the use of urinary catheters (CAUTIs - catheter-associated urinary tract infections) was another item discussed at the roundtable. Both SSIs and CAUTIs require a multidisciplinary approach and a good balance between evidence-based measures and pragmatism.



The training of healthcare professionals was called an essential if not most important condition for a successful implementation of HAI prevention and control programmes. The power of awareness raising campaigns in reducing antibiotic consumption and fostering hand hygiene should not be underestimated. The benefits of infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship outweigh the costs and, consequently, call for further investment in such stewardship programmes. Infections’ management needs strong political commitment, both at national and at EU level. As was underlined by John Bowis, HFE co-patron,

working together is critical to tackle public health emergencies such as AMR and HAIs. Infection prevention and control are key actions to reduce antibiotic consumption.

The European Commission and European Parliament will keep AMR and HAIs prevention and control among the key priorities of the next years in order to ensure the continuation of the EU Action Plan under a “One Health” approach.

(The European Network for Safer Healthcare (<http://eusaferhealthcare.eu>) is an informal group of health stakeholders working together to ensure that patient and healthcare workforce safety is in the limelight of the EU policy agenda. It works under the supervision and coordination of HFE, Health First Europe.)

Bert Van Caelenberg, vice-president HFE and secretary general of EUROFEDOP, participated in the event.

