European Alert and Warning systems

Health

Vortrag Brüssel St. Vertretung Steiermark, 3.12.2008

Dr. Rainer Meilicke
European Commission
Directorate Health and Consumers
Health Threat Unit

The European Union

The European Union:

27 Member States

3 Candidate Countries
- Croatia
- Turkey
- Former Yugoslav
  Republic of Macedonia

The European Union

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European Institutions

Institutional Triangle: Decision Makers

European Commission	Council of the EU

European Parliament

European Council

Advisory Committees

Economic & Social Committee	Committee of the Regions

European Court of Justice

European Court of Auditors

The European Commission

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The Role of the European Commission

- Initiate & negotiate draft legislation
- Apply European Union laws
- Represent the European Union on the world stage
- Ensure implementation of EU policies

Health & Consumer Protection
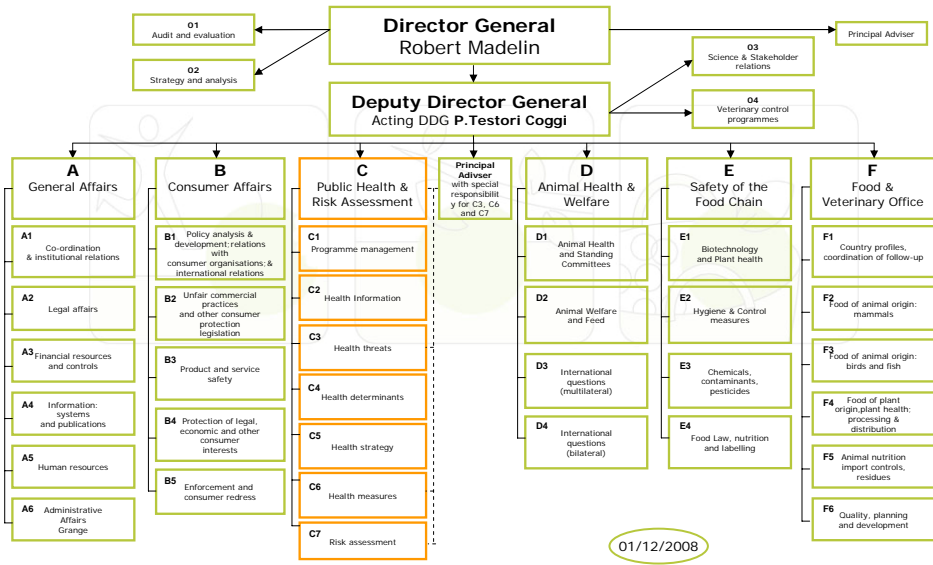Directorate-General

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EU Policies

Communication... Enterprise & Industry... Transport...
Justice, Freedom & Security... Information Society
& Media... Environment... Economic & Monetary Affairs...
Regional Policy... Fisheries/Maritime... Science& Research...
Education Training & Culture
Health & Consumers Enlargement...
Development & Humanitarian Aid...
Taxation & Customs Union... Competition...
Agriculture & Rural Development...
External Relations... Internal Market...
Employment & Social Affairs... Trade... Energy...
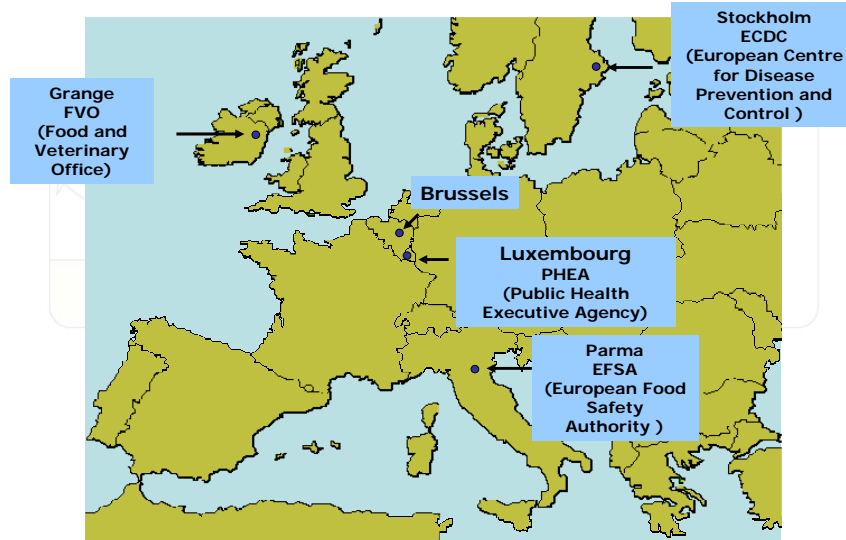Multilingualism

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DG SANCO

Structure of DG Health and Consumers

	Director General Robert Madelin	
O1 Audit and evaluation		**Principal Adviser**
O2 Strategy and analysis		**O3** Science & Stakeholder relations
	Deputy Director General Acting DDG **P.Testori Coggi**	**O4** Veterinary control programmes

A General Affairs	**B** Consumer Affairs	**C** Public Health & Risk Assessment	**Principal Adivser** with special responsibility for C3, C6 and C7	**D** Animal Health & Welfare	**E** Safety of the Food Chain	**F** Food & Veterinary Office
A1 Co-ordination & institutional relations	**B1** Policy analysis & development; relations with consumer organisations; & international relations	**C1** Programme management		**D1** Animal Health and Standing Committees	**E1** Biotechnology and Plant health	**F1** Country profiles, coordination of follow-up
A2 Legal affairs	**B2** Unfair commercial practices and other consumer protection legislation	**C2** Health Information		**D2** Animal Welfare and Feed	**E2** Hygiene & Control measures	**F2** Food of animal origin: mammals
A3 Financial resources and controls	**B3** Product and service safety	**C3** Health threats		**D3** International questions (multilateral)	**E3** Chemicals, contaminants, pesticides	**F3** Food of animal origin: birds and fish
A4 Information: systems and publications	**B4** Protection of legal, economic and other consumer interests	**C4** Health determinants		**D4** International questions (bilateral)	**E4** Food Law, nutrition and labelling	**F4** Food of plant origin,plant health: processing & distribution
A5 Human resources	**B5** Enforcement and consumer redress	**C5** Health strategy				**F5** Animal nutrition import controls, residues
A6 Administrative Affairs Grange		**C6** Health measures				**F6** Quality, planning and development
		C7 Risk assessment				

01/12/2008

Slide 1

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Where we are

Stockholm
ECDC
(European Centre
for Disease
Prevention and
Control)

Grange
FVO
(Food and
Veterinary
Office)

Brussels

Luxembourg
PHEA
(Public Health
Executive Agency)

Parma
EFSA
(European Food
Safety
Authority)

Slide 2

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Health Threat Unit SANCO C3
Based in Luxembourg

Mission
Enhance the capability of and develop capacity for identifying, preparing
and responding rapidly and in co-ordinate fashion too public health threats
and emergencies of EU concern.

- **Community Network on Prevention and Control of communicable Diseases**
- **Public Health Programme**
  - **Health information**
  - **Health threats (+- 15 Mio Euro per year)**
  - **Health determinants**
- **Health Security**
- **HEOF - Health Emergency Operations Facility**
- **EC-contact point to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**
  - **Epidemiology**
  - **Scientific Advice**
  - **Preparedness**

Once upon a time...

...seven years ago...the concepts of

- Biosecurity
- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Preparedness planning

were almost non-issues in Public Health settings. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the USA and the subsequent unleashing of anthrax spores have changed our views.

EU Response in the Public Health field to Sept. 11 Events

Before Sept. 11
Community Network on communicable diseases based on EP-Council Decision 98/2119

- **Commission Decision 2000/96/EC: Surveillance**
- **Commission Decision 2000/57/EC: Early warning**
- **Commission Decision 2002/253/EC: Case definitions**
- **Network Committee**
- **Eaerly warning and Response System Committee**
- **Epidemiological Surveillance Component of the Community Network (ESCON)**

After Sept. 11
EU Programme of Cooperation in Preparedness and Response to Biological and Chemical Agent Attacks (Health Security)

- **Mechanism for information exchange, consultation and co-ordination**
- **Capability for inventorying, surveillance, detection/ diagnosis and identification**
- **Medicines' stocks and health services database and stand-by facilities for provision of medicines, other medical resources and health care specialists**
- **Binding rules and guidance, links with third countries and international organizations**

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- **Mechanism for information exchange, consultation and co-ordination**

  - Rapid Alert System
  - Monitoring & Information
  - Medical intelligence system
  - Ad hoc networks (Health Security Committee / GHSAG

- **Capability for inventorying, surveillance, detection/ diagnosis and identification**

  - List of agents - Matrix
  - Classification of events - modelling
  - Models of cooperation agreements for links between laboratories
  - Specific surveillance
  - Directories of experts
  - Procedure for setting-up investigation teams
  - Threat monitoring in liaison with security and law enforcement services
  - Inventory of and minimum standards for laboratory facilities
  - Incident investigation & environmental sampling
  - Health resources and mutual assistance

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- **Rules and disseminate guidance; links with third countries and international organizations**

  - Guidelines for health professionals
  - Review of Directives on the circulation of products and persons
  - Risk and crisis communications
  - Links with third countries and the WHO
  - Training modules
  - Exercises and emergency plan evacuation
  - Guidelines on decontamination & restoration of services
  - Guidelines on strengthening health-related systems
  - Inventory of treatment capacities

- **Medicines' stocks and health services database**

  - Directories of treatment capabilities
  - Inventory of stocks of medicines
  - Availability of medicines
  - Review of National Plans

Achievement:
## EU Health Security Committee (HSC)

- The EU Health Ministers created the Health Security Committee on 26 October 2001; the Committee had its first meeting on 30 October 2001
- It is composed of high level representatives of the EU Health Ministers and the European Commission
- The Committee has as its mandate to take decisions and commitments with respect to
  - Crisis management
  - Generic Preparedness planning
  - Response in case of emergency
  - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
- Mandate renewed 2007

Working groups of the Health Security Committee

- Laboratories
- Medicinal Products
- Chemical Threats
- Incident Investigation and Sampling
- Planners

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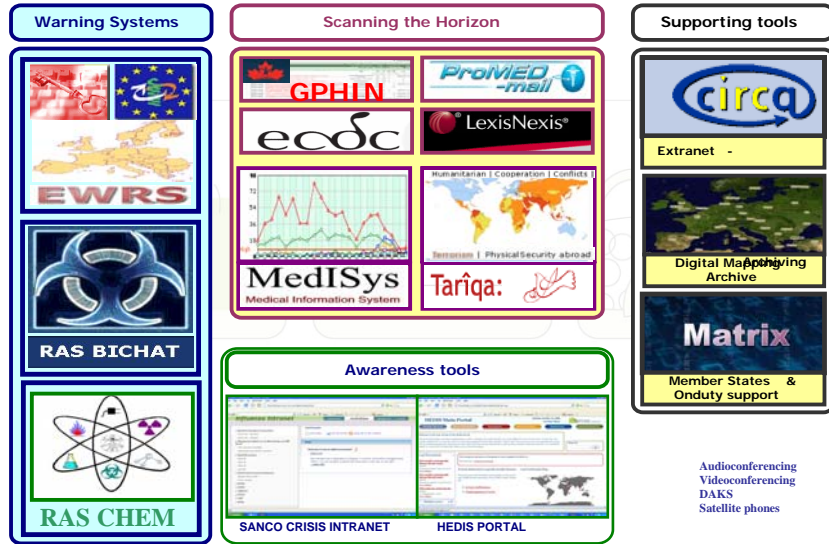
Laboratory Cooperation:
What is in place

- European Union Response Network for P4 Virus Infections (EURONET P4)
- European Network for Diagnostics of "Imported" Viral Diseases (ENIVD)
- European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS)
  - laboratory co-ordination
  - quality assurance schemes
  - follow up on case definition
- Smallpox Diagnostic
  - Development of an improved diagnostic capability in the EU with the collaboration of Russian Scientists through the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)
- Global Health Security Action Group Laboratory Network

EURONET-P4

- European Network of P4 laboratories (6 Labs in 4 Member States) to enable
  - rapid
  - effective and
  - coordinated response
- to health threats to European populations resulting from natural infection by class 4 agents or their deliberate release

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European Network for Diagnostics of "Imported" Viral Diseases (ENIVD)

- **Objectives**
  - Provide mutual help in the exchange of diagnostic methods, and information in order to improve diagnostics for encephalitis virus and other/new emerging viral pathogens.
  - Identify laboratories, capable and willing to perform the rapid diagnostics (<24h) of acute cases of viral infections.
  - Work out recommendations for standardization and quality control for diagnostic laboratories involved in the diagnostics of such diseases.
  - Optimize limited resources by exchanging reagents, methods, and expertise.
  - Encourage regular contact within the network through meetings, exchange and training of laboratory personnel

Inter-operability of Preparedness Plans and communication structures

- Assessment of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plans by
  - ECDC
  - GHSI Influenza Working Group
- EU wide exercises to test communication systems and preparedness planning
  - New Watchman
  - Common Ground
  - United Horizon
  - Aeolus

Training

- Use of warning systems (EWRS, RAS-Bichat) for participants in all Member States
- Forensic Epidemiology Training for Participants from Public Health and from Law Enforcement
- Health Emergency Operations Facility (HEOF) training for Commission staff

International Cooperation

- WHO
  - Pandemic Influenza
  - Biosafety and biosecurity issues
  - International Health Regulations (IHR)
  - Laboratory issues/transportation of biological materials
- Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) of G7+ countries
  - G7+Countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA, plus Mexico

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Basic concept of Preparedness

- Risk assessment
  - A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps:
    - I) hazard identification,
    - ii) hazard characterization,
    - iii) exposure assessment, and
    - iv) risk characterization
- Risk management
  - A process, distinct from risk assessment, of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and if needed selecting appropriate prevention and control options.
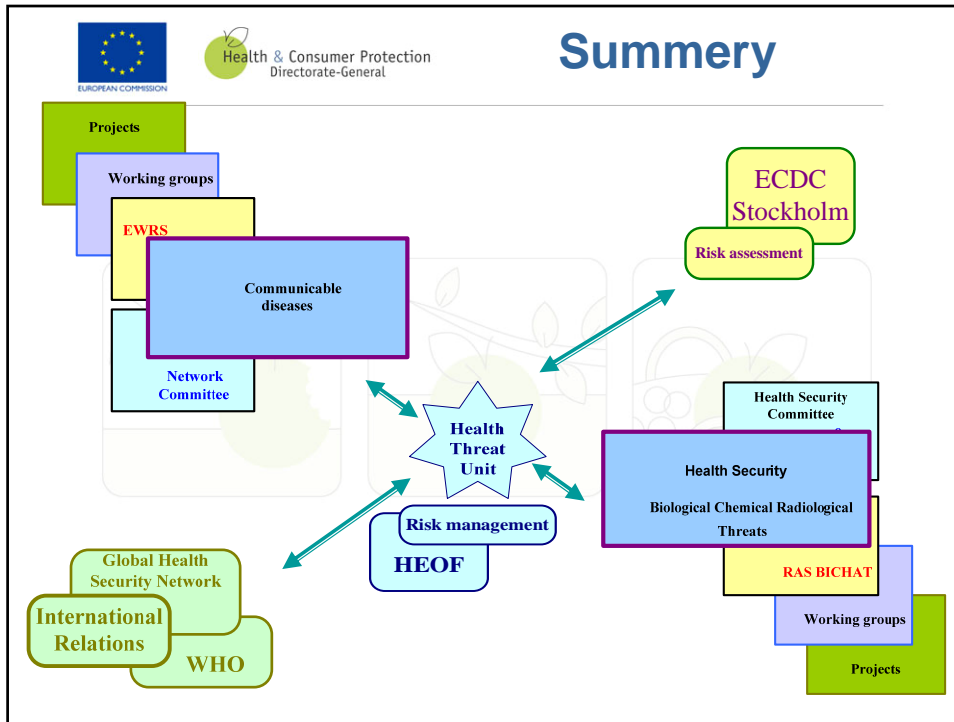- Risk communication

Generic Preparedness and Response Planning (COM (2005) 605)

- **Information management** (surveillance, monitoring, intelligence, sampling, detection, diagnosis, analysis, correlation, identification)
- **Communications** (systems, procedures, command and control, obligations for information and consultation, media, expert groups, public)
- **Cross-sector preparedness**
- **Scientific advice** (procurement, setting criteria and triggers in support of actions, determine corresponding actions and the resources and ways to implement them)

Upcoming

- Event scale modelling / simulation tools
- Geo-reports
- Integrated decision making tools
- Contact tracing
- standardized logbook system to be used by the MS
- Web-based restricted directory of contact points for MS and Commission
- Restricted website for sharing best practices on crisis management
- Integration of a document management system

Summery

Health & Consumer Protection
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Projects

Working groups

EWRS

Communicable
diseases

Network
Committee

ECDC
Stockholm

Risk assessment

Health Security
Committee

Health Security

Biological Chemical Radiological
Threats

RAS BICHAT

Working groups

Projects

Health
Threat
Unit

Risk management

HEOF

Global Health
Security Network

International
Relations

WHO

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Thank you !

Public Health Web site:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/publichealth_en.htm

•**EU Health portal**
http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm