



C O N F E R E N C E

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance - Time for Joint Action

What:

The dangers of excessive use of antimicrobials have been known for decades. Raising awareness and taking action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is not new to the European Union, but taking further action within the union is necessary in order for us to effectively meet the challenges of AMR, and we must act now. On that basis antimicrobial resistance will be a main priority during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU in early 2012.

In a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Danish Presidency will host a conference which will focus on the use of antimicrobials in both human and veterinary medicine.

The conference will aim to address the challenges of AMR and how to tackle this microbial threat at EU level by reviewing the situation, exchanging best practices and discussing possible solutions – actions that work.

Where and when:

- Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark,
14-15 March, 2012.

Why:

- All over the world resistance towards lifesaving antimicrobials are emerging.
- The increasing development of AMR is a global threat to human and animal health.
- More than 25.000 people in the EU die each year from infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

- The costs are considerable, not only in regards to human life, but also socioeconomically because of prolonged illnesses and increased hospitalisation rates, which in turn increase health care costs and reduce productivity.
- The misuse, and especially overuse, of antibiotics have resulted in the development of AMR.
- We risk returning to a pre-penicillin state, where people may die of hitherto easily treatable infections.
- If we do not act now, the consequences may prove fatal.

Focus:

- Improve data collection and surveillance of antibiotic use and resistance for both animals and humans throughout the EU.
- Stop overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals - focus on rational use.
- Reduce the use of critically important antibiotics in humans and animals.

Who:

- Approx. 300 participants from human and veterinary medicine including food safety representing Member States, as well as stakeholder organisations and institutions, hereunder experts in the field.

Format:

- Plenary sessions
- Workshops

Practical:

- An official invitation will follow, including program and practical information regarding accreditation etc.

