



Brief report

High-level event on AMR at the European Parliament

25 June 2025 | 10:00–11:30 CEST | Brussels

The European Parliament hosted a high-level event on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which was convened by Members (MEPs) **Martin Häusling** (The Greens/European Free Alliance), **Sirpa Pietikäinen** (European People's Party), **Romana Jerkovic** (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) and **Vlad Voiculescu** (Renew Europe), in collaboration with the Quadripartite¹, bringing together European MEPs, European Commission officials, technical experts, civil society and international organizations to highlight the AMR agenda through a One Health approach.

¹ The Quadripartite is a functional arrangement that leads and coordinates global work across the One Health spectrum by consolidating collaboration and cooperation among FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH, drawing on their core mandates and comparative advantages. WHO hosts the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat. More information is available on <https://www.qjsamr.org/>.

Opening remarks

Opening remarks were delivered by MEP Martin Häusling and by Dr Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General (Health Systems), WHO.

MEP Häusling welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of a One Health approach to tackling AMR, citing the example of antimicrobial misuse in agriculture. He noted that, as AMR is a priority for the European Commission, many MEPs had organized the bipartisan event. He reiterated the support of the European Parliament for the activities of the Quadripartite, including global governance initiatives. He promised to encourage other European MEPs to learn more about AMR and to consider potential policy interventions.

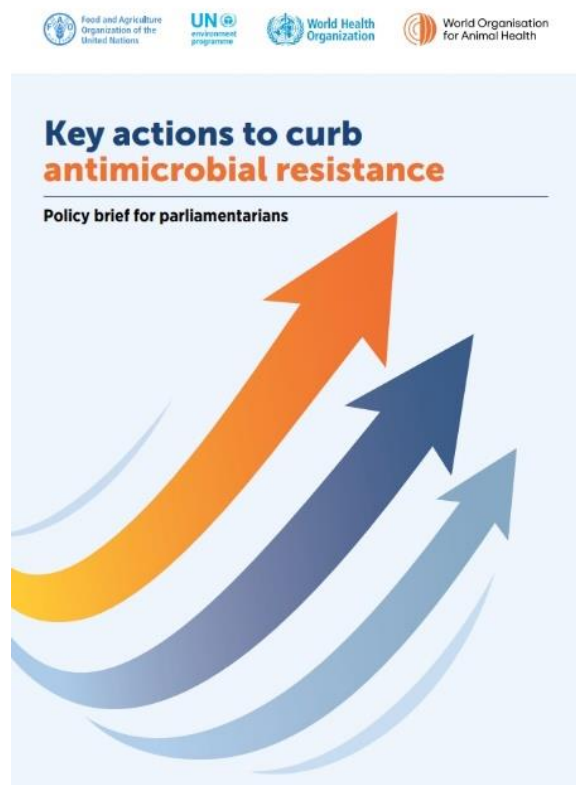
Dr Nakatani, speaking on behalf of the Quadripartite Organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA), said that AMR is a critical, escalating global threat, which is associated with 5 million deaths every year and a projected cost to the global economy of US\$855 billion annually during the next decade. She described major milestones in the global response to AMR since adoption of the [2015 Global Action Plan](#), including adoption of the [Political Declaration at the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024](#). She recognized the leadership of the European Union (EU) for its longstanding commitment to the One Health approach and its financial and policy contributions to global AMR action.



Meeting in progress
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In particular, she acknowledged EU support for the World Health Assembly Resolution on AMR in 2024, a €2.5 million grant for the upcoming [Independent Panel on Evidence for Action on AMR](#) and contributions to the [Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#) and to research and development of novel antimicrobials. While progress has been made, Dr Nakatani stressed the importance of sustained political will and investment to preserve gains in infectious disease control. She called on MEPs to champion AMR action in their constituencies, regionally and globally, using the recently launched Quadripartite Policy Brief for Parliamentarians as a key tool for advocacy.

Presentation of the Quadripartite policy brief for parliamentarians



The Quadripartite recently published a policy brief entitled [Key actions to curb AMR: policy brief for parliamentarians](#). Philip Mathew, Technical Officer in the WHO AMR Awareness, Campaigns and Advocacy unit, outlined the purpose and contents of the policy brief. The brief is designed for parliamentarians, in view of their critical role in advancing global and national AMR agendas. It highlights how parliamentarians can help overcome the challenges of AMR through their legislative, oversight and budgetary functions. The brief was developed by consultation among FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAH and legal experts. It outlines the need to act and proposes key actions, best practices, evidence-based recommendations and governance mechanisms to support

action against AMR. Its aim is to strengthen political commitment, promote accountability and guide effective policy-making to address AMR as a public health and development priority.

Panel discussion on Quadripartite actions to mitigate AMR

The participants in the high-level panel discussion were: Dr Thanawat Tiensin, Assistant Director-General, Director of Animal Production and Health Division and Chief Veterinarian, FAO; Ms Veronika Hunt Safrankova, Head, Brussels Office, UNEP; Dr Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General, Health Systems, WHO; and Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos, Head, Department of AMR and Veterinary Products, WOAH. The discussion was moderated by Mr Hendrik Kafsack, EU correspondent for the German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The panel opened with presentation of AMR as a critical global health and development challenge that demands a One Health approach to address human, animal and environmental health in a coordinated manner. Dr Tiensin said that the agricultural sector had a central role in AMR, as antibiotics are still used in intensive farming systems to promote growth and prevent disease. He noted that

"If we do not have working antibiotics to treat our animals, it also becomes a problem of food security and nutritional security of the world."

Dr Thanawat Tiensin
FAO

integrated “farm-to-fork” strategies are required to address antibiotic use throughout the food production chain. He pointed out that current legislation and policy frameworks remain siloed, limiting the effectiveness of AMR interventions. He described FAO’s RENOFARM initiative, in which sustainable farming is promoted, in a five-pillar “5Gs” framework: Good health services, Good production practices, Good alternatives, Good incentives and Good connections. Stocking density, in which large numbers of animals are raised in limited space, was identified as a key challenge, as it contributes to overreliance on antibiotics to prevent infections. Dr Tiensin also pointed to unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including extensive food waste, as systemic drivers of AMR.

Ms Safrankova, speaking from the environmental perspective, called for maintenance of the environmental

ambitions of the European Green Deal in AMR mitigation strategies. She emphasized use of a One Health approach, as pollution from pharmaceutical effluents, wastewater, pesticides and agricultural runoff is fuelling AMR, yet these environmental drivers are too often overlooked. Improving sustainability in agriculture and antibiotic use does not necessarily

“Green policies do not reduce competitiveness of Europe, rather it helps us to be more competitive. We cannot be competitive if we don’t safeguard our health and environment.”

Ms Veronika Hunt Safrankova
UNEP



compromise competitiveness but can drive innovation and cleaner production methods. She stressed the importance of addressing AMR throughout the antibiotic value chain, from manufacture, distribution and use to environmental disposal. Antibiotic residues from pharmaceutical waste and livestock runoff contaminate ecosystems and contribute to the emergence of resistant bacteria; therefore, environmental oversight is critical.

Dr Nakatani drew attention to the role of health systems and innovation in tackling AMR. She highlighted the importance of including AMR mitigation in work on universal health coverage to ensure that

“At the country-level, various ministries should work together to share data and know-how on impactful practices which can be adopted in other sectors. One example is vaccination.”

Dr Yukiko Nakatani
WHO

populations have access to essential medicines while safeguarding their effectiveness through responsible use. She underscored the value of product development partnerships, which consist of collaborative initiatives for developing new diagnostics, vaccines and antibiotics for neglected diseases, and of public-private partnerships to stimulate innovation while spreading costs and risks. Dr Nakatani also described WHO's normative and standard-setting work, particularly the AWaRe classification system, in which antibiotics are

categorized into Access, Watch or Reserve groups to guide appropriate use. Reduction of inappropriate use of Watch and Reserve antibiotics, which are typically second- and third-line treatments, is vital to slowing resistance while preserving their availability.

Dr Yugueros-Marcos emphasized the importance of sustainability in tackling AMR. He called for a shift from antibiotic reliance towards prevention, such as better biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases and vaccination, which reduces the need for antibiotics by keeping animal populations healthy. Dr Yugueros-Marcos proposed that economic incentives and consumer protection be integrated into AMR policies. While antibiotics are often a cheaper short-term solution for farmers, long-term sustainability requires investment in better farming practices. He described Denmark as a leading example, where coordinated government and industry action has drastically reduced antibiotic use in livestock without harming productivity. Dr Yugueros-Marcos also noted the importance of engaging large-scale animal producers and the agribusiness sector in AMR mitigation. He called for incentives to encourage farmers to adopt vaccination and better practices.

“The key to reducing antibiotic use in animals is to focus on preventive measures. Europe needs to invest in animal husbandry practices and sustainable production systems.”

Dr Javier Yugueros-Marcos
WOAH

The panel concluded that AMR requires a holistic, systems-level response by agriculture, health, environment, industry and consumers. Continued EU leadership is essential for ensuring the sustainability of AMR plans and interventions, and MEPs play key roles. Effective interventions must go beyond changing individual behaviour to addressing the structural and economic drivers, from market incentives to legislative coherence. The panel called for integrated governance, better surveillance, innovation in animal health practices and better public awareness as basic steps for more sustainable, effective mitigation of AMR.

Closing remarks

MEP Vlad Voiculescu thanked the Quadripartite collaboration for publishing the recent guidance document for parliamentarians, which, he said, was clear and action-oriented. The document presented structured, evidence-based

recommendations that provide practical entry points for MEP engagement and help to bridge global technical guidance with national legislative priorities. MEP Voiculescu attested to the continued commitment of the European Parliament to supporting the global response to AMR, commenting that political leadership and coherent legislation are essential to driving sustainable progress. He emphasized the urgency of raising public and political awareness about AMR as a silent, growing threat and advocacy about its impact not only on health but also on food systems, the environment and economic stability. He noted that MEPs are positioned to champion AMR mitigation through advocacy, resource allocation and holding governments accountable for implementing multisectoral action plans. He committed himself to prioritizing AMR on the agenda of the SANT committee of the EU Parliament.

Dr Yukiko Nakatani, Hon. Martin Häusling, Ms Veronika Hunt Safrankova and Hon. Vlad Voiculescu after the event

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Key takeaways

- 1. Harmonization of AMR policymaking:** AMR requires coordinated action across human health, animal health, agriculture and the environment, and policymaking must be harmonized. A siloed approach is counterproductive.
- 2. EU Leadership must continue:** The EU supports AMR initiatives, including a €2.5M grant for the upcoming Independent Panel, funding for new antibiotics through various product development partnerships and support for quadripartite organizations. This has to continue, especially in the background of the recent shocks in the development sector globally.
- 3. Policy Brief for Parliamentarians is a useful resource:** The Quadripartite policy brief for parliamentarians is a timely resource to drive AMR action by law makers. The clear messages can help to mobilize law makers to advance AMR through laws, budgets, and oversight.
- 4. Need for structural reforms in improving multisectoral collaboration:** Speakers emphasized the importance of structural reforms to ensure better collaboration and data sharing between sectors, along with economic incentives, and integrated governance across health, animal health agriculture, and environment.
- 5. Think of long-term solutions, along with immediate fixes:** Long-term solutions include, but not limited to, investment in better farming practices, cleaner production, universal health coverage and new tools like vaccines, diagnostics, and alternative treatments.
- 6. Parliamentarians' can increase political capital:** Parliamentarians can drive progress through legislation, advocacy, accountability, and resource allocation at national and EU levels. They can also ensure continued political support in national capitals.

A recording of the event can be accessed at the following link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9nDoRpnFpc>

For more details about the event or parliamentary engagement on AMR, please contact:

Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva
Switzerland
amr-qjs@who.int

The Quadripartite gratefully acknowledges the support of Lena Wietheger and Johanna Melsheimer (Parliamentary Assistants at MEP Martin Häusling's office), Kyle Defreitas (Grant Management Officer, WHO AMR Department), Benjamin Gutierrez Lobos (External Relations Officer, WHO Representation Office to the European Union) and Oxana Domenti (WHO Representative to the EU) in facilitating the event.