

# Minutes of the Thirty-seventh Meeting

## Stockholm, 14-15 June 2016

*Adopted by the ECDC Management Board at its Thirty-eighth meeting, 15-16 November 2016*

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## Summary of Proceedings – ECDC Management Board Meeting

The Thirty-seventh meeting of the ECDC Management Board (MB) convened in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14-15 June 2016. During the meeting, the Management Board:

- ❖ adopted the draft programme;
- ❖ took note of the exchange views between the ECDC contact member of the European Parliament ENVI Committee and the ECDC Management Board;
- ❖ adopted the draft minutes of the Thirty-sixth meeting of the Management Board;
- ❖ took note of the update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting;
- ❖ took note of the update on the ECDC Building project;
- ❖ took note of the update on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation;
- ❖ adopted the ECDC Independence Policy Revision, with the provision that the texts referring to staff will be sent to DG HR for final review;
- ❖ took note of the Internal procedure on Conflict of Interests;
- ❖ took note of the implementation of the ECDC draft Independence Policy;
- ❖ took note of the feedback from the European Commission in relation to the exemption of members of the EC and EU institutions from submitting DoI when participating in expert groups;
- ❖ approved the Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present;
- ❖ approved the ECDC Single Programming Document 2017 for submission to the Commission for providing their opinion. Upon receipt of their opinion, the MB will approve the SPD 2017 via written procedure;
- ❖ approved the organisation of future ECDC Management Board meetings in the light of the timeline proposed by the European Commission for the Single Programming Document, and decided to keep the current schedule of the Management Board meetings, but to revisit the matter in November 2016;
- ❖ approved the final Annual Accounts for 2015, including the Report on Budgetary and Financial Management;
- ❖ took note of the First Supplementary and Amending Budget 2016;
- ❖ approved the Country Support Strategy;
- ❖ approved a bi-annual rotation model for the future locations of ESCAIDE Conferences;
- ❖ approved the ECDC criteria and process for engaging in the EU funded projects on public health/communicable disease prevention and control with changes, and deemed it to be a living document that should be used as a reference until further changes are agreed upon;
- ❖ approved the ECDC Management Board meeting dates for 2017 and provisionally for 2018;
- ❖ took note of the update on EPIET and EUPHEM: implementing the one fellowship programme. The next update will be presented to the Management Board in November 2016;
- ❖ took note of the final report of the 2015 ECDC Stakeholder Survey. The Management Board will discuss ways in which to improve the ECDC stakeholder surveys during the next Board meeting in November 2016;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Commission;
- ❖ took note of the presentations from the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic regarding the EU Presidencies.



## Opening and welcome from the Chair (and noting the Representatives)

1. The Chair of the ECDC Management Board welcomed all participants to the Thirty-seventh meeting of the Management Board.
2. A special welcome was extended to Bernhard Benka, newly appointed Alternate, Austria, and Katerina Konečná, the ECDC contact member of the European Parliament ENVI Committee and the ECDC Management Board. Apologies had been received from Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and from John F Ryan, European Commission.
3. The Chair of the MB announced the following: Ján Mikas, Member, Slovak Republic, would join the MB meeting only on day 1, 14 June, for the second half of 14 June, and the whole day of 15 June proxy is given to Romania, Jozef Dlhý, Member, Czech Republic, would join the MB meeting only on the first half of day 1, 14 June (for 15 June no proxy given), Lisbeth Høeg-Jensen, Member, Denmark, would join the MB meeting only on day 1, 14 June (for 15 June no proxy given), Helen Shirley-Quirk, Member, United Kingdom, would join the MB meeting only on day 1, 14 June (for 15 June no proxy given), Jacques Scheres, Member, European Parliament would join the MB meeting only on day 2, 15 June via audio link due to the airlines strike (SAS and AIR France).
4. Proxies were duly noted as follows: Bulgaria – proxy given to Slovak Republic on day 1, proxy given to Minerva-Melpomeni Malliori, European Parliament on day 2, Estonia – proxy given to Finland, Italy - proxy given to the Netherlands (on day 2) and Poland – proxy given to Jacques Scheres, European Parliament.
5. Further to attendance, the Board was informed that due to the airlines strike, Martin Seychell and Barbara Kerstiens, Members of the MB, European Commission, could not attend the meeting in person. They participated, however, via video link.

## Welcome from the Acting Director, ECDC

6. Andrea Ammon, Acting Director, ECDC, welcomed the Management Board members and noted that she was looking forward to having productive discussions during the meeting. A special welcome was extended to ECDC's contact member of the European Parliament ENVI committee, Ms Kateřina Konečná, as it was her first visit to the Centre.

## Adoption of the draft programme (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (*Document MB37/01 Rev.1*)

7. Prior to adopting the programme, the Chair asked each member whether s/he wished to add any oral declaration(s) of interest to her/his existing Annual Declaration of Interest (DoI) submitted previously. None were declared.
8. Due to scheduling constraints, Ján Mikas, Member, Slovak Republic, requested to present his update on the Slovak Republic EU Presidency during the morning session (first day).

The Management Board adopted the draft programme.

## Keynote address: Exchange of views between the ECDC contact member of the European Parliament ENVI Committee and the ECDC Management Board (*Ms Kateřina Konečná, MEP and the ECDC Management Board*)

9. MEP Konečná informed the MB about her role as the ECDC contact person in the European Parliament, remarking that she was honoured to represent ECDC. She was positive about ECDC's preparatory and proactive work in events such as Ebola and Zika and of the hard work shown by the

staff of the Centre. She highlighted that the Member States and the European Parliament are expecting more from ECDC, noting the mandate of ECDC should be expanded. She was pleased that ECDC will have a larger budget for the building project. It was emphasised that ECDC needs clear strategies to focus upon in the upcoming years.

10. MEP Konečná expressed concern about the election of a new Director. The Management Board shared the same concerns and questioned the process. Both the Parliament and the Management Board would like a transparent and communicative process from the start in order to elect the best possible candidate.

11. In regards to the selection procedure, the Board members were encouraged to be more proactive in canvassing candidates in their home countries.

12. Highlighting the importance of transparency of the process of electing a new Director, the Board requested that the European Commission provide the Board with the CV's of all applicants before the shortlisting, since the Board is not fully aware about the particulars of this phase of the procedure. The members would like to have a discussion with the Commission to understand more about the selection process.

13. Following the discussion, the MB Chair summarised, that, in respect to the election of a new Director, the procedure cannot be changed at this time, but the Board will try to identify the best candidate, and to canvass potential candidates in their respective countries. It was affirmed that the Commission will assure a transparent process and dissemination of the CVs of the candidates. The Board expressed their appreciation to MEP Konečná's presence at the meeting and her support to ECDC.

The Management Board took note of the exchange of views between the ECDC contact member of the European Parliament ENVI Committee and the ECDC Management Board.

### **Adoption of the draft minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 8-10 March 2016) (*Document MB37/02 and MB37/02 CONF*)**

The Management Board adopted the draft minutes of the Thirty-sixth meeting of the Management Board.

### **Update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting (Stockholm, 8-10 March 2015) (*Document MB37/03*)**

14. Andrea Ammon, Acting Director, ECDC, provided the Board with an update on the main activities since the last MB meeting and gave an overview of what had been discussed at the 45th meeting of the Advisory Forum. The presentation referred to the key decisions of MB36, their status and progress. The Board was updated with the main visits, meetings and country missions of the ECDC Acting Director between March-June 2016. The Management Board showed a particular interest in the ECDC Policy Briefing and to the Rapid Risk Assessments. The value of the Rapid Risk Assessments for the Member States was acknowledged, including the excellent work done by the ECDC in this area.

The Management Board took note of the update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting.

### **Update on ECDC Building project**

15. Andrea Ammon, Acting Director, ECDC, updated the Board with the progress of the building project, noting that the building proposal was presented to the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union without receiving objections. The next steps were outlined, which include the signing the new lease contract and highlighted the current activities to gather feedback from staff in the frame of the workplace analysis. In referring to the different elements (focus group, the survey, utilisation study and interviews with managers), the Board was introduced to



the workplace analysis and informed that the results would be presented to the Senior Management Team and to all staff on Monday, 20 June 2016.

16. Following the update, the Board members acknowledged this topic as very important and inquired about the results from the staff survey, in particular, the needs of staff for priorities of office space. In respect to teleworking, it was pointed out the need to ensure the smooth functioning of communications and networks.

17. Taking into account the remarks expressed, the Acting Director informed that the next step is to discuss various workspace elements. In regards to teleworking, it was assured that is functioning now in ECDC within the Stockholm area, and not in other cities or countries. The Board was also informed that ECDC will dedicate one person who will take care of the IT part when moving, especially for such vital ECDC systems as emergency operations, the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and TESSy.

The Management Board took note of the update on ECDC Building project.

## **Joint Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation: Progress Report (Document MB37/04)**

18. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, presented an update on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan to address recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation. As this is a standing item on the MB agenda, he updated the Board on progress made within the 14 sets of actions in the Plan. Upon asking the Members for feedback on the current activities being implemented, several comments and questions were raised.

19. In general, the Board was satisfied with the results. There was particular interest and support for the focus on getting closer to the Member States. It was highlighted that training activities are very beneficial to the countries. Acknowledging the relevance of laboratory cooperation and the work being led by the European Commission on a laboratory strategy, the importance of the coordination between countries and at the EU level was stressed, including observing how laboratory cooperation could function and what the potential role is for ECDC. The intention to provide an update on the work to develop an EU laboratory strategy during the MB meeting in November 2016 was noted and welcomed. In regards to strengthening surveillance, it was noted that there is a significant need at national level regarding ongoing professional training. With regards to actions related to internal processes and performance, the Board was concerned about staff satisfaction.

20. In respect to training, Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit, Public Health Capacity and Communication, ECDC, noted that this activity is much appreciated by the countries, noting the umbrella of the continuing professional development programme and that a new ECDC colleague is working on this. This matter will be also discussed during the Coordinating Competent Bodies meeting for National Coordinators during 14-15 September. The main idea is to assure that the training outputs are driven by the needs of countries.

21. Concerning staff surveys, Andrea Ammon noted that the last survey was performed in October 2015. The results have not improved significantly from the previous survey. The next survey will be carried out in 2017. Actions to substantially improve the situation have to be discussed now internally.

22. Following discussions, the Chair acknowledged the progress made to date and noted the expected results on laboratory strategy, training and well being of staff as main concerns.

The Management Board took note of the update on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation.

## **Update from ECDC Compliance Officer**

### **a) ECDC Independence Policy revision (Document MB37/10)**

23. Jan Mos, Compliance Officer, ECDC, presented the ECDC Independence Policy. The Management Board was updated on the changes made to the Independence Policy, which include an

introduction stating its purpose more clearly and delegation to the ECDC director for implementation of the policy. It was clarified that the two related documents are split as follows: MB37/10 for decision and MB37/11 for information, respectively, to ensure clarity.

24. The Board members acknowledged the improved consistency of the documents. However, risk levels should be indicated in both documents. The MB Chair suggested adopting Document MB37/10, pending subsequent approval from DG HR in regards to the staff rules.

The Management Board adopted the ECDC Independence Policy Revision, with the provision that the texts referring to staff will be sent to DG HR for final review.

### ***b) Internal procedure on Conflict of Interests (Document MB37/11)***

25. In connection to the above item, Jan Mos, Compliance Officer, ECDC, recalled that the document is presented to the MB for information due to its status as a Director's decision, which is deemed to be practically implemented. The Board will be further informed of any changes in the internal procedure.

The Management Board took note of the Internal procedure on Conflict of Interests.

### ***c) Implementation of the ECDC draft Independence Policy (including presentation on the number of declarations brought forward containing conflicts and measures taken and/or mitigating measures)***

26. Jan Mos, Compliance Officer, ECDC, noted that in rolling out the process to submit DoIs by the Advisory Forum, the Management Board and external experts, compliance has improved especially among external experts.

27. The MB Chair advised to look in more depth regarding the practice of the Governing Bodies, noting that majority of outstanding DoIs emanate from the alternates. Jan Mos also recalled the decision that if an individual has not submitted his/her DoI, then s/he is not allowed to attend the meeting, reiterating that there are a number of individuals from the AF and MB who have never attended meetings.

The Management Board took note of the implementation of the ECDC draft Independence Policy.

### ***d) Feedback from the European Commission in relation to exemption of the DoI from members of the EC and EU institutions when participating in expert groups***

28. Martin Seychell, MB member, DG SANTE, clarified that the European Commission is exempt from filling in DoI forms when participating in the capacity of external experts due to their role as observers, and are thereby sufficiently covered for potential conflicts of interest under the current staff regulation.

The Management Board took note of the feedback from the European Commission in relation to exemption of the DoI from members of the EC and EU institutions when participating in expert groups.

29. The Chair and Andrea Ammon thanked Kateřina Konečná for her participation and for having shared information on her role with ECDC staff. Moreover, the Chair supported the common efforts towards the election of a new director, noting the letter from the Board to Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, notwithstanding the upcoming steps to review the vacancy notice and to publish it.

## Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present (*Document MB37/06*)

30. Philippe Harant, Head of Section, Quality Management Section, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, updated the Management Board on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 and on the progress of the different activities. He provided information on the implementation of the work programme, noting that 64% of activities are on schedule. He asked the MB to include a request to establish a collaborative platform for immunisation programmes in support of National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs). The Commission also indicated they wanted to cancel their request for a new activity on the support by ECDC to the European Commission on vaccine shortage. After a discussion with the Members on questions related to vaccines shortages, expectations from the Member States, shared activities between the Commission and ECDC, this new item on NITAGs was approved to be included in the 2016 Work Programme and the activity on support on vaccine shortage rejected. It was supported by the Members since it is within the current budget and resources and gives an added value to countries serving as a collaborative platform.

The Management Board approved the Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present.

## ECDC Single Programming Document 2017 (*Document MB37/07 Rev.1*)

31. Andrea Ammon presented the ECDC Single Programming Document (SPD) 2017. The SPD is a new template for the work programme, which is designated for all EU agencies, and also represents the common framework for the ECDC Annual Work Programme.

32. Following the presentation, the Members discussed the timeline of the SPD and the content of the document, highlighting ECDC's mandate in regards to links between the EU and outside the EU for strengthening public health preparedness and support, relevancy of scientific advice, intentions in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and country visits as an important part of capacity building.

33. The representative from the European Commission proposed the following timeline for the SPD:<sup>1</sup>

- the Management Board adopts final draft of programming document, including human and budgetary resources (end of year N-2/in January of year N-1);
- By 31 January of year N-1: submission of this final draft to EP, Council, and the Commission (Article 33 (5) FFR);
- Budgetary hearings in February/March (for budget year N);
- Draft Budget adopted by end of May;
- Following adoption of the Draft Budget, the Commission will send its opinion on the SPD to ECDC by 1 July. ECDC may integrate the figures contained in the Draft Budget for budget year N;
- Following the opinion of the Commission, the Management Board will adopt the final version. This version will become definitive after adoption of the EU budget for year N (usually end of year N-1 (Article 33 (8) FFR). If necessary, the budget of the Agency, the work programme, and the establishment plan will be adjusted accordingly.

34. The Board approved the document for submission to the Commission for providing their opinion. Upon receipt of their opinion, the MB will approve the SPD 2017 via written procedure as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Programming Document for Decentralised Agencies. Articles 32 and 33 FFR, DG BUDG. Michael Huebel, DG SANTE.

The Management Board approved the ECDC Single Programming Document 2017 for submission to the Commission for providing their opinion. Upon receipt of their opinion, the MB will approve the SPD 2017 via written procedure.

## **Organisation of future ECDC Management Board meetings in the light of the new Framework Financial Regulation for the Single Programming Document (SPD) (*Document MB37/12*)**

35. Corinne Skarstedt, Head of Section, Corporate Governance, Director's Office, ECDC, presented the organisation of future ECDC Management Board meetings in the light of the timeline for the Single Programming Document. The two options presented to convene three Management Board meetings either in March, June and November or January, March and June.

36. The MB discussed the pros and cons of both of the options, taking into consideration the information and deadlines presented by the Commission. The members supported the present schedule of the meetings, i.e. three meetings in a year, March, June and November, pointing out the importance of convening a meeting in the second half of the year. It was noted that strategic documents must be approved in a physical meeting, taking into account the SPD. The Board supported the proposal draft scenarios with fixed agenda items, including programming, budgeting documents, noting that items for decision should be in each meeting.

37. The Board decided to keep the current schedule of the Management Board meetings until experience is acquired with the new process between the MB, EC and ECDC, and to revisit this item in the next MB meeting in November 2016.

The Management Board approved the organisation of future ECDC Management Board meetings in the light of the timeline proposed by the European Commission for the Single Programming Document, and decided to keep the current schedule of the Management Board meetings, but to revisit the matter in November 2016.

## **Summary of discussions held at the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (13 June 2016), including its recommendations:**

38. Johan Carlson, Member, Sweden, and Chair of the ECDC Audit Committee (AC), briefly summarised the discussions and conclusions from the 32<sup>nd</sup> AC meeting, which took place on 13 June 2016.

### ***a) Final Annual Accounts 2015, including the Report on Budgetary and Financial Management (Document MB37/08)***

39. Anja Van Brabant, Head of Section, Finance and Accounting, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented the final Annual Accounts for 2015, and informed the members about the conclusions from the discussions at the Audit Committee meeting, that has been evaluated very positively by the Chair of the ECDC Audit Committee.

The Management Board unanimously approved the final Annual Accounts for 2015, including the Report on Budgetary and Financial Management.

### ***b) First Supplementary and Amending Budget 2016 (Document MB37/09)***

40. Anja Van Brabant continued to present on mechanisms that ECDC has put into place, including budget transfers in order to execute the 2016 budget. She continued to present the first supplementary and Amending Budget 2016 and the MB took note of this update, while recommending to try to reduce the number of meetings, but not to make cuts in core ECDC business.

The Management Board took note of the First Supplementary and Amending Budget 2016.

### **Country Support Strategy (*Document MB37/05*)**

41. Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit, Public Health Capacity and Communication, ECDC, presented the Country Support Strategy, which outlined a new structure of country support activities that are country driven, better aligned with the country needs, and optimised ECDC resources for country support. The MB commended Karl Ekdahl on the well-organised and accurate document, and raised questions about synergies with other international initiatives, noting that it could be useful to organise this exchange in each country, for example, the systematic review, that could be part of the programme. As much of the training is organised by ECDC, it should be prioritised. The Members supported preparedness work, also stressed country driven priority settings.

42. Karl Ekdahl noted that ECDC has been involved with international activities and underlined that this strategy provides a more structured way of obtaining direct input of countries and setting priorities with them.

The Management Board approved the Country Support Strategy.

### **Timeline and process for nomination of ECDC Director for 2017-2022**

43. Closed session. Members of the Management Board only.

## Opening and welcome by the Chair

44. The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the ECDC Acting Director and her staff for the dinner during the previous evening.

## Future location of ESCAIDE (*Document MB37/13*)

45. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, presented a paper on options for the future location of ESCAIDE. The next ESCAIDE conference will take place in Stockholm during 28-30 November 2016. The options presented for future hosting of the conference were: (i) host the conferences annually in Stockholm, (ii) rotate the location every year; and (iii) rotate bi-annually where the meetings would alternate between being held in Stockholm every second year and in another European city in the years in between. Regarding the costs, the trend observed of reduced costs during the recent years was felt to be in part a consequence of commissioning the organisation through a public sector organisation and also the ability to plan well in advance knowing that the event location was in Stockholm for each of the last few years. The analysis of past attendance indicated that moving the conference to other countries would probably increase attendance from the host country and adjacent countries.

46. The Members discussed different options, benefits and costs. Rotating the event was favoured, noting such advantages as getting closer to the countries, complementing country visits, strengthening capacity, increasing visibility of ECDC, and possible coordination with EPIET modules. In order to realise such benefits and ensure optimal outcomes in terms of aspects such as location, cost, structure of the programme, the role of the host country and link to regional level, it was proposed to discuss this matter during the upcoming meeting of the CCB National Coordinators on 14-15 September 2016. Also, it was noted that it would be important to evaluate the potential burden to countries.

47. The MB decided on option (iii) to have a bi-annual rotation. The Scientific Committee of ESCAIDE, with input from the Coordinating Competent Bodies, should develop the criteria for the selection of hosting sites, with the aim of realising the stated added value of rotation. The MB would like to have feedback in the next MB meeting in November 2016.

The Management Board approved a bi-annual rotation model for the future locations of ESCAIDE Conferences.

## ECDC criteria and process for engaging in the EU funded projects on public health/communicable disease prevention and control (*Document MB37/14*)

48. Maarit Kokki, Head of Section, International Relations, Director's Office, ECDC, presented the ECDC criteria and process for engaging in the EU funded projects on public health/communicable disease prevention and control. She reviewed the current 21 projects that ECDC is involved in, the degree of involvement, and the estimated the risk for potential conflicts of interest.

49. The Board appreciated the work done, however, noted certain issues to be clarified, such as ensuring the scientific independence and integrity of ECDC, the role of ECDC and the AF in advisory roles in projects, budgetary considerations, and working with the private sector while avoiding conflicts of interests. The members expressed their willingness to endorse this proposal due to the need to move forward, considering that in the next version of this document, the role of ECDC should be clarified with a clear definition of added value and the role of collaboration with industry.

50. Maarit Kokki replied that thus far, ECDC has used the project funding received (IMI/ADVANCE) to organise meetings and cover travel expenses and ECDC staff time has been ECDC's contribution to the project. She confirmed that the definition of roles of public and private sector players is one of the main objectives of the ongoing ADVANCE project, and ECDC endeavours to have an active role in that work. Concerning EU funded projects, and the relevance to be actively involved in science, it is difficult as there are no resources to invest in this.

51. The MB Chair summarised by categorising the document as living, which will be further refined and elaborated upon in the future. Subsequently, the MB supported the advisory role of ECDC in

research projects, while noting the necessity of further clarifications of criteria of the involvement required and budget issues.

52. The paper was approved with changes and also considered as a living document that should be used as a reference until further changes are agreed.

The Management Board approved the ECDC criteria and process for engaging in the EU funded projects on public health/communicable disease prevention and control with changes and deemed it to be a living document that should be used as a reference until further changes are agreed upon.

## **ECDC Management Board meeting dates 2017 and 2018 (Document MB37/15)**

53. Corinne Skarstedt, Head of Section, Corporate Governance, Director's Office, ECDC, proposed future dates for the ECDC Management Board meetings in 2017 and 2018. The MB agreed to schedule meetings in 2017 as below, noting the possibility of an extraordinary meeting in respect to the election of ECDC Director.

- MB39: 21-22 March 2017
- MB40: 13-14 June 2017
- MB41: 21-22 November 2017

And provisionally in 2018:

- MB42: 20-21 March 2018
- MB43: 19-20 June 2018
- MB44: 13-14 November 2018

The Management Board approved the ECDC Management Board meeting dates for 2017 and provisionally for 2018.

## **EPIET and EUPHEM: Implementing the one fellowship programme (review of placement criteria)**

54. Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit, Public Health Capacity and Communication, ECDC, presented an update on the One Fellowship Programme. In addition to describing the progress made in merging EPIET and EUPHEM into one single programme, he updated the MB on the role of Member States in hosting and selecting Fellows.

55. The Board members stressed the importance of training efforts of ECDC in the EPIET programme. One MB member expressed a wish for the Member States to be involved in ranking the individuals of EPIET and that countries could be involved in the preselection process of the Fellows. However, it was also noted that some countries do not want to be involved in the preselection process since each candidate has the possibility to start from a clean slate, and some candidates could be blocked from their countries; thus it is now open to all equally. In regards to rotation, countries would need to recall the founding principles. It would also be beneficial to combine microbiology and epidemiology.

56. Karl Ekdahl replied that epidemiology and microbiology need to work together using new technologies. In regards to number of fellows, the old system of pre-ranking by the Member States was abandoned after criticism from the auditors. However, ECDC is committed to providing better information to the Member States throughout the selection process as agreed with the National Focal Points for Training.

The Management Board took note of the update on EPIET and EUPHEM: implementing the one fellowship programme. The next update will be presented to the Management Board in November 2016.

## Final Report of ECDC Stakeholder Survey (*Document MB37/16*)

57. Philippe Harant, Head of Section, Quality Management, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented the final report of the second annual ECDC Stakeholder Survey which was launched in January 2016. The low response rate was identified as a concern, however, while the improved response from the MB and AF was acknowledged.

58. The Board made suggestions to improve responses from stakeholders. The common opinion of trying to reach more targeted objectives with less frequency was supported. The burden to countries must be considered since they receive many requests to fill in time-consuming surveys. A condensed version of an annual survey was proposed and a more detailed survey every three years. It was suggested to rethink the concept of the survey and seek alternative ways of obtaining information. Thereafter, the Board would like to discuss improving ECDC stakeholder surveys during the MB meeting in November 2016.

The Management Board took note of the final report of the 2015 ECDC Stakeholder Survey. The Management Board will discuss ways in which to improve the ECDC stakeholder surveys during the next Board meeting in November 2016.

## Update from the European Commission

### *a) State of play of implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU, including the Joint Procurement Agreement*

59. Michael Huebel, MB Alternate, DG SANTE, updated the Management Board on the implementation of Decision 1082, noting that 23 Member States are now part of the Joint Procurement Agreement. The progress of the combined Implementing Act (Articles 8 and 11) was highlighted, which is almost ready to be sent to the Comitology Committee, which will be discussed following the summer. Thereafter, the work will start with a focus on Article 6 of the Implementing Act, which is related to epidemiological surveillance. Consequently, ECDC and the Member States will be involved. By the end of 2017, the next report on the state of preparedness will be due. In respect to the Joint Procurement Agreement, a tender was launched on the personal protective equipment in March, and in parallel, a number of teleconferences and physical meetings will convene regarding the procurement process. The success of the Joint Procurement Agreement depends on the cooperation of all interested parties.

### *b) Update on AMR activities*

60. This item was not discussed.

### *c) Update on Research Activities*

61. By way of video link, Barbara Kerstiens, MB Alternate, DG Health and Food Safety, updated the MB on evaluation activities related to the Zika virus and yellow fever research. The evaluation was contracted in May, received a list of five eligible proposals for funding, where negotiations follow. In addition, the EC issued a call related to vaccine development on malaria and other infectious diseases for which the evaluation will take place shortly.

The Management Board took note of the update from the European Commission.

## Update from the EU Presidencies

### *a) Update from the Netherlands*

62. Marianne Donker, Member, the Netherlands, informed about the work of the current EU Presidency and highlighted activities which have taken place in her home country. One of the key activities related to communicable diseases was a ministerial conference on AMR which supported the "One Health Approach".



### ***b) Update from Slovak Republic***

63. Ján Mikas, Member, Slovak Republic, presented communicable disease priorities when the country hosts the EU presidency starting July 2016.<sup>2</sup> Regarding communicable diseases, the Slovak EU Presidency will host a conference related to TB and an informal meeting of the EU Ministers.

The Management Board took note of the presentations from the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic regarding the EU Presidencies.

## **Announcement regarding the MB38 election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the ECDC Management Board**

64. The Chair announced the elections for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Management Board, which will take place during the Thirty-eighth Board meeting in November. The deadline<sup>3</sup> for submitting nominations is not later than three weeks prior to the start of the meeting, i.e. 24 October 2016. Candidates shall submit a statement in support of their candidature at the time of nomination. The Corporate Governance Secretariat is required to forward the nominations to the members of the Board no later than 10 working days before the meeting, i.e. 31 October 2016.

The Management Board took note of the elections of the Chair and Deputy Chair, which are scheduled to convene during the Thirty-eighth Board meeting in November 2016. The deadline for submitting nominations to the Secretariat is not later than 24 October 2016. Candidates shall submit a statement in support of their candidature at the time of nomination. The Secretariat is required to forward the nominations to the members of the Board no later than 31 October 2016.

### **Any other business**

65. The Chair thanked the Corporate Governance Team and ECDC staff for the efficient preparatory work which allowed the Management Board to discuss and approve a number of issues of paramount importance.

66. The next Management Board meeting will take place in Stockholm during 15-16 November 2016. The meeting was adjourned.

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<sup>2</sup> Due to scheduling constraints, the Member of the Slovak Republic presented his update during the first morning of the meeting.

<sup>3</sup> The deadline takes into consideration the All Saints' Day holiday (1 November 2016) for the majority of EU Member States.

## Annex 1. List of participants

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
Austria	Bernhard Benka	Alternate
Belgium	Daniel Reynders ( <i>Chair</i> )	Member
	Loïc Ledent	Alternate
Cyprus	Irene Cotter	Alternate
Czech Republic	Jozef Dlhý	Alternate
Denmark	Lisbeth Høeg-Jensen	Member
Finland	Anni Virolainen-Julkunen	Member
France	Anne-Catherine Viso	Alternate
Germany	Susanne Wald	Member
	Gesa Lücking	Alternate
Hungary	Beatrix Oroszi	Alternate
Latvia	Dzintars Mozgis	Alternate
Luxembourg	Jean-Claude Schmit	Member
Netherlands	Marianne Donker	Member
Romania	Amalia Serban	Member
Slovak Republic	Ján Mikas	Member
Spain	Elena Andradas Aragonés	Alternate
Sweden	Johan Carlson	Member
	Mårten Kivi	Alternate
United Kingdom	Helen Shirley-Quirk	Member
<b>European Parliament</b>		
	Jacques Scheres ( <i>via audio link</i> )	Member
	Minerva-Melpomeni Malliori	Member
	Katerina Konečná	MEP
	Petr Karola	

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
<b>European Commission</b>		
DG SANTE	Martin Seychell ( <i>via videoconference</i> )	Member
DG RTD	Barbara Kerstiens ( <i>via videoconference</i> )	Alternate
DG SANTE	Michael Huebel	Alternate
<b>EEA Countries</b>		
Norway	Karl-Olaf Wathne	Member