



ECDC Management Board

**Minutes of the Thirty-first Meeting of the  
ECDC Management Board  
Stockholm, 17-18 June 2014**

*Adopted by the Management Board at its Thirty-second meeting, 18-19 November 2014*

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## Summary of Proceedings – ECDC Management Board Meeting

The Thirty-first meeting of the ECDC Management Board (MB) convened in Stockholm, Sweden, on 17-18 June 2014. During the meeting, the Management Board:

- adopted the draft agenda with a caveat to the agreed adjustments;
- adopted the draft minutes of the Thirtieth Management Board meeting;
- took note of the update on the main activities since the last meeting;
- took note of the update on the external evaluation process;
- agreed to dissolve the Management Board External Evaluation Steering Committee (MEES) following receipt of the finalised Evaluation Report (8 October 2014);
- appointed Daniel Reynders, Member, Belgium, and Chair of the MEES, to propose the composition of the Evaluation Recommendations MB Drafting Group;<sup>1</sup>
- accepted the proposal to convene the discussions on the recommendations in March 2015, due to the tight time schedule of the evaluation process;
- was informed that the Economisti Associati (external evaluators) team may be invited to the next meeting in November 2014 in order to present their findings to the Board;
- took note of the update from the Working Group on New Business Models and Financing of Large-scale EU Level Activities;
- took note of the update on the Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health;
- agreed to collect the comments of the Board on the revised Rules of Procedure in writing after the meeting and subsequently adopt the revised Rules of Procedure via written procedure;
- agreed that Belgium shall draft relevant paragraphs on the process of the appointment of the ECDC Director;
- endorsed the Final Annual Accounts 2013, including the report on Budgetary and Financial Management;
- agreed to proceed with scenarios A and B of the Second Supplementary and Amending Budget 2014, including the proposal for budget transfers regarding increased weighting coefficient in Sweden, i.e. executing budget transfers amounting to five million euros;<sup>2</sup>
- agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Board, will draft a letter to the European Parliament and the Council in order to express the concerns of the ECDC Management Board on the potential consequences of these scenarios on the implementation of the ECDC 2014 Work Programme;
- took note of the presentations of the Greek and Italian EU Presidencies;
- endorsed the proposal of the European Commission in respect to the publication of the vacancy notice for the ECDC Director, with a caveat that further clarifications on the legal aspects of the process will be provided by the Commission;
- agreed to submit comments and subsequently approve the vacancy notice via written procedure;
- agreed to submit a list of volunteers<sup>3</sup> willing to act as observers in the work of the Pre-Selection panel for the ECDC Director to the Commission with a proposal to appoint a panel of three potential observers instead of one;

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the email correspondence from Daniel Reynders on 26 June 2014, the proposed composition of the Recommendations MB Drafting Group is: Daniel Reynders, Chair (Belgium), Anne-Catherine Viso (France), Gesa Lücking (Germany), Dzintars Mozgis (Latvia), Marianne Donker (Netherlands), Paula Vasconcelos (Portugal), Mojca Gobec (Slovenia), Karoline Fernández de la Hoz (Spain), Helen Shirley-Quirk (United Kingdom), Minerva-Melpomeni Malliori (European Parliament), Jacques Scheres (European Parliament) and John F Ryan (European Commission).

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the existing proposal covers only 4.7 million euros.

- decided on the provisional budget and priorities in order that ECDC can further develop the 2015 Work Programme for decision in the November Management Board meeting;
- agreed that, based on feedback received during the June MB meeting, a new version of the 2015 Work Programme Priorities will be circulated to the Board via written procedure in September, in order to take into account their consolidated views. Following the written procedure, the final draft will be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval in the November meeting;
- approved the report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2014 up until present, including the ECDC Director's proposal to strengthen ARHAI and its HAIs branch by adjusting the ARHAI Work Plan 2014 to focus on key priorities and new requests and increasing ARHAI resources by three FTEs as of 2015 and thereby adapting available resources to the workload and level of importance of these public health issues;<sup>4</sup>
- adopted the MB meeting dates for 2015 and took note of the provisional meeting dates for 2016;
- took note of the elections of the Chair and Deputy Chair, which are scheduled to convene during the next meeting in November 2014.

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<sup>3</sup> Regarding the appointment of observers, the following countries volunteered: Denmark, European Parliament (both Members), Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the MB Extranet, MB31 meeting, presentations folder.

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

1. Françoise Weber, Chair of the ECDC Management Board (MB), welcomed all the participants to the Thirty-first meeting. A special welcome was extended to Peter Kreidl, newly appointed Alternate from Austria, Maria Pirounaki, newly appointed Alternate from Greece, and Karl-Olaf Wathne, Alternate, Norway, attending for the first time. Apologies had been received from Tiiu Aro, Deputy Chair, Czech Republic, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovak Republic (proxy given to Bulgaria).
2. In reference to the latest changes in the meeting programme, as informed via email correspondence on 13 June 2014, the Board was informed that some of the document and item numbers have changed; however, since the content of the documents remains unchanged, the revised versions will be uploaded to the MB Extranet.

## Welcome from the Director, ECDC

3. Marc Sprenger, Director, ECDC, welcomed delegates on his behalf and noted that he was looking forward to fruitful discussions during the meeting. Special reference was made to the condensed version of the Annual Report of the Director which had been tabled for the Board members.

## Item 1 – Adoption of the draft agenda (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (*Documents MB31/2 Rev. 1; MB31/3 Rev. 2*)\*

4. The Chair called on the Board members to bring forward any possible conflicts of interests in reference to the meeting agenda. No interests were declared.
5. In reference to the draft agenda, the Chair highlighted the item on the timeline and process for nomination of ECDC Director 2015-2020 and recalled that this important session will be conducted during a closed session excluding ECDC staff. In connection to this, the Board members were asked to confirm whether they would be present during the morning of Day 2 and in case not, the Chair requested to ensure that proxy would be provided to any of the remaining Members. The Member from Denmark noted her absence during Day 2, proxy given to Sweden.
6. Further on the draft agenda, it was requested to move the presentations on the EU Presidencies to Day 1. It was agreed to reschedule the update from the Greek EU Presidency to Day 1 of the meeting.
7. The draft agenda was thereafter adopted.

The Management Board adopted the draft agenda with a caveat to the agreed adjustments.

## Item 2 – Adoption of the draft minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 27-28 March 2014) (*Document MB31/4*)\*

The Management Board adopted the draft minutes of the Thirtieth Management Board meeting (27-28 March 2014).

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\* Item for decision.

\* Item for decision.

## **Item 10 – Update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting of the Management Board (27-28 March 2014)** (Document MB31/Info Note 1)\*

8. ECDC Director presented a brief update on the main activities since the last meeting of the Management Board.<sup>5</sup>
9. It was announced that Mike Catchpole was selected as the new ECDC Chief Scientist and will take up his post from the second half of October 2014.
10. Regarding the Building project, it was noted that the lease will expire in January 2018. The different models for the new building are under development. It would be useful to reactivate the working group of MB regarding the building alternatives. ECDC Director will initiate the reactivation of the WG and will plan a meeting in autumn.
11. In response to the question relating to the budget cuts, it was confirmed that the Centre is required to cut twenty posts within five years.
12. Further to the presentation, further clarifications were requested in relation to the ECDC risk assessment on polio which included a discrepancy between the recommendations of the WHO and the ECDC. Following the thorough explanation of the Chief Scientist, it was questioned how far ECDC can or should go in its scientific opinions, and it was suggested that the Board could elaborate on this matter in more detail, alternatively also discussing this at the Health Security Committee (HSC) meeting(s). The representative from the European Commission noted that the legal framework in which the Centre is working was slightly modified after the Decision on serious cross-border threats to health came into force and the question remains on the HSC evaluating the risk assessments emanating from the ECDC. This was raised during the last audio conference of the HSC, but due to time constraints, the issue will be addressed at their next meeting.

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

## **Items 11 and 3 – Update from the ECDC Management Board External Evaluation Steering Committee and appointment of the Evaluation Recommendations MB Drafting Group\*\***

13. Daniel Reynders, Member, Belgium, and Chair of the ECDC Management Board External Evaluation Steering Committee (MEES), informed the Board that the first interim evaluation report had been received on 6 June and the draft final report is expected as scheduled on 18 August 2014. The MEES shall convene its last meeting in Brussels on 8 September, after which the final report shall be provided to the ECDC Director (8 October 2014) and the MEES will be dissolved.
14. Upon receipt of the final report, the Evaluation Recommendations MB Drafting Group needs to be set up. Three alternatives were proposed: 1) sub-set of the current MEES; 2) new group who have not been involved in the work of the MEES; or 3) mixture of the current MEES and few Member States. The group needs to be established before the Final Report is provided to the Director and should ideally include about 6-7 members.
15. For the sake of corporate memory, it was suggested that the Drafting Group should include at least some members from the current MEES. It was also proposed that Daniel Reynders could lead the new group. The Board members were then requested to express their interest to join the Drafting Group. Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and both Members of the European Commission, Martin Seychell and John F Ryan, confirmed their willingness to participate.<sup>6</sup>

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\* Item for information.

<sup>5</sup> Item 9 - Update on ECDC main activities.

\* Item for information.

\* Item for decision.

<sup>6</sup> In accordance with the email correspondence from Daniel Reynders on 26 June 2014, the proposed composition of the Recommendations MB Drafting Group is: Daniel Reynders, Chair (Belgium), Anne-Catherine Viso (France), Gesa Lücking (Germany), Dzintars Mozgis (Latvia), Marianne Donker (Netherlands), Paula Vasconcelos (Portugal), Mojca Gobec (Slovenia), Karoline Fernández de la Hoz (Spain), Helen Shirley-Quirk (United Kingdom), Minerva-Melpomeni Malliori (European Parliament), Jacques Scheres (European Parliament) and John F Ryan (European Commission)

16. Considering the timeline of the evaluation process, it was proposed to postpone the discussion on the recommendations until March 2015 (or alternatively until the Extraordinary meeting in January 2015), as otherwise the Drafting Group would have very limited time to draft the recommendations as well as it would be difficult for the MB to comment on same before the meeting in November 2014. The Board agreed to this proposal. In relation to this, it was questioned whether the final report could be submitted any earlier, considering that the Centre needs to start planning the 2016 budget in the end of the year, and it would be unfortunate to only receive the recommendations by spring 2015. Additionally, a link was made between the recommendations and the appointment of the ECDC Director. It was, however, pointed out that there was no way to change the timeline of the evaluation process as it was already late and the Board was cautioned in making any linkage between the external evaluation report and appointment of the Centre's Director as the (new) Director can only be appointed based on the information which is available in the public domain.

17. The Board was informed that during the meeting in November, the external evaluators might be invited to present their findings.

The Management Board took note of the update on the external evaluation process and agreed to dissolve the Management Board External Evaluation Steering Committee (MEES) following receipt of the finalised Evaluation Report (8 October 2014). The Board also appointed Daniel Reynders, Member, Belgium, and Chair of the MEES, to propose the composition of the Evaluation Recommendations MB Drafting Group.

In reference to the recommendations, it was agreed to convene the discussions on same in March 2015, due to the tight time schedule of the evaluation process.

The Management Board was informed that the Economisti Associati (external evaluators) team may be invited to the next meeting in November 2014 in order to present their findings to the Board.

## **Item 12 – Update from the Working Group on New Business Models and Financing of Large-scale EU Level Activities\***

18. Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, and Chair of the ECDC Management Board Working Group on New Business Models and Financing of Large-scale EU Level Activities, updated the Board on the latest developments. A special thank you was extended to the European Commission and the European Medicines Agency for their participation.

19. During the last meeting of the WG, which convened in Brussels on 4 June 2014, the main task of the WG as well as the roles of all parties were discussed in detail. The main goal of the WG will be to provide the MB with information on this matter, e.g. clarifying the meaning of 'effectiveness' of vaccines, clarifying the regulatory and non-regulatory/public health needs as well as the needs of different bodies, what needs to be funded on the EU level and what are the funding needs.

20. In connection to the WG, the importance of the topic on vaccination/immunisation was brought out, and it was noted that the Commission will be proposing to the new College of Commissioners to pay close attention to this issue. It was also highlighted that the Italian EU Presidency has also taken up this topic.

21. The input of the WG is considered very valuable. From the ECDC side it is hoped that, in collaboration with EMA, a joint vision on how activities surrounding vaccination questions could be organised on the EU level will also feed into the conclusions of the European Commission.

The Management Board took note of the update on the work of the WG on New Business Models and Financing of Large-scale EU Level Activities.

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\* Item for discussion.

## Item 13 – Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health \*

22. John F Ryan, Member, European Commission, updated the Board on the decision on serious cross-border threats to health. As a part of the decision, the HSC will become the advisory group for the cross-border threats to health legislation. The first meeting of the group will convene on 26 June 2014. The MB was also informed of the various implementing acts which Commission has put forward, such as the implementation of the decision on a template of information for preparedness and response, decision on early warning and response system and inclusion of other threats, a decision on coordination of measures, etc. In summary, it was stated that the new decision brings nothing revolutionary. Further updates will be provided to the Board at the next MB meeting in November.

23. In relation with the presentation, ECDC was asked whether it is clear to the Centre how the work is divided between the ECDC and the HSC and the Board agreed that further clarity on this is needed, also while keeping in mind the costs of the required activities/possibilities of ECDC in the light of the budget cuts.

24. It was pointed out that in the process of the new decision, the European Commission has tried to ensure that no duplications have been created; however, it is understood that some elements still need to be discussed further, especially while considering that the mandate of the Centre was never changed. The new decision has clarified the role of HSC and ECDC, linked to the role of the HSC in coordinating national measures on cross-border health threats. Since the decision cannot be implemented overnight, the previously mentioned implementing acts were developed. A significant change is the inclusion of other threats outside communicable diseases. The legal text also covers communication with the public, e.g. the HSC should have its say about which information should be provided to the public. The preparation of such messages and the risk assessments which ECDC is responsible for should be incorporated into this process. The Commission will be finalising the legal texts while taking into account the budgetary issues as well as the remit of ECDC.

The Management Board took note of the update on the Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health.

## Item 7 – Revision of ECDC Management Board Rules of Procedure (*Documents MB31/5, MB31/Info Note 2*)\*

25. Anita Janelm, Alternate, Sweden, and Chair of the ECDC Working Group on Rules of Procedure (RoP) and Draft Code of Conduct, presented the revised Rules of Procedures and highlighted the amendments.<sup>7</sup>

26. Under the paragraph on membership, it was questioned whether the EEA countries are included and if not, whether they should be mentioned specifically.

27. In reference to recordings of the meetings and possibly disclosing these, should the Chair so decide, it was questioned what the definition of "making public" is. It was clarified that "public" in this context refers to publishing the recordings/minutes on the ECDC website. In relation to the regulation on transparency, however, there might also be requests for meeting documents.

28. Regarding the voting procedure, it was stated that this could be better regulated, i.e. taking note who has voted how, rather than just deciding based on the show of hands.

29. With regards to article 6(2) referring to the request to delete and replace, it was queried where this is emanating. It was noted that this issue had been raised during past Board meetings referring to the MB being able to influence the agenda, should they wish to do so.

30. Considering the article on proxy, it was stated that the Board members are all directly responsible for the decisions and thus the current wording in the RoP is too encouraging. Additionally,

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\* Item for guidance.

\* Item for decision.

<sup>7</sup> Item 7 - Revised ECDC Rules of Procedure



there should be no proxies during secret ballot voting. It was also pointed out that as some Member States do not regularly attend meetings, their attendance should be regulated more strictly.

31. In order to proceed with the approval and to ensure the agreement of all members, it was decided to review the RoP by articles:

- 1) The Board unanimously agreed with the citations.
- 2) Article 1. The roles and rights of Members and Alternates were discussed in detail, including the function of the Chair in the light of maintaining his/her objectivity. In relation with the Founding Regulation, which only refers to the possibility of having Alternates, it was agreed that the RoP will provide a provision that every Member is required to have an Alternate. The Board also unanimously agreed that Alternates will not be prevented to attend together with the Member, however, the Alternate can only fully participate (e.g. vote) during the absence of the Member. The Board also agreed with the exception of the Chair.
- 3) Article 2. It was requested to provide a clear timeline for the possible number of terms the Chair and Deputy Chair can be extended in their roles. Additionally, it was pointed out that it should be explicit that a two-thirds majority is needed for both the election as well as for the extension of the Chair/Deputy Chair. In case this cannot be achieved, the Board can move to a simple majority. It was agreed that proxies for secret ballot voting should not be used during such proceedings.
- 4) Article 3. The Board agreed to clarify that quorum is necessary for the meeting or secret ballot. In case of quorum for the meeting in general or voting by hands, proxy is possible.
- 5) Article 4. In reference to an earlier note on the EEA countries, it was highlighted that the current article answers the question. Regarding the voting rights, it was stated that it needs to be specified in the agreement between the EEA countries and the EU. This was confirmed by the ECDC Legal Officer. It was highlighted that the MB cannot create any rules for the EEA countries or international organisations, etc., as the official agreements shall always override the RoP. It was suggested to mention the dependence on the agreements with the EU in the current article.
- 6) Articles 5 and 6 were unanimously agreed by the Board.
- 7) Article 7. The Board discussed in detail the issue of live streaming the meetings/sessions during the meetings. It was agreed that, even as the Chair has the right to announce a proposed transmission, the MB should have the right to reject this request, even if only one of the Members dissents. Overall, it was felt that live streaming the meetings to the ECDC staff (and not to the outside public) does not facilitate the meetings and may, contrarily, inhibit open discussions.

32. In reference to the possibility of nominating external experts to the MB Working Groups, the Board was informed that the revised RoP proposes to exclude all other parties, as the WG's belong to the MB. This proposal was, however, questioned due to the possible need for additional expertise as well as for considering the schedules of the Board members.

33. Due to scheduling constraints, it was agreed to collect comments and subsequently adopt the revised Rules of Procedure via written procedure.

The Management Board agreed to collect the comments of the Board on the revised Rules of Procedure in writing following the meeting and subsequently adopt the revised Rules of Procedure via written procedure.

The Board also agreed that Belgium shall draft relevant paragraphs on the appointment of the ECDC Director.

## **Item 9 – Timeline and process for nomination of ECDC Director 2015-2020<sup>\*8</sup>**

34. Closed session for Management Board members/alternates only. It was announced that the Board would convene the second part of the closed session during the morning of Day 2.

## **Item 4 – Summary of discussions held at the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (16 June 2014) including its recommendations**

35. Johan Carlson, Member, Sweden, and Chair of the ECDC Audit Committee (AC), summarised the discussions of the 26<sup>th</sup> Audit Committee meeting as follows:

36. In terms of the IAS Final Audit Report on Public Health, the AC took note of the seven recommendations made by the IAS (1 VI and 6 I), which were all accepted by ECDC. The AC will follow the implementation of the action plan in its future meetings.

37. With regard to Audit Activities and Audit Observations, the AC noted that five observations/comments are still formally open, of which three are implemented by the ECDC and are awaiting review/closure by the IAS. The remaining two are planned to be closed in Q2 2014.

38. With respect to the IAS Annual Internal Audit Report 2013, the AC took note of the report and especially that no critical or very important recommendations were open at the end of 2013. It also noted that this was the last annual report of the IAS, and that in the future, the IAS would report when necessary.

39. Regarding the Final Annual Accounts 2013, the AC received clarifications on a number of detailed issues in the accounts, such as the implementation of reallocation services, business continuity, operational meetings and intangible fixed assets under construction. The AC recommended to the MB to approve the proposed opinion on the ECDC Final Accounts 2013.

40. In reference to the Second Supplementary and Amending Budget 2014, the AC took note of the transfers performed under the responsibility of the Director. The AC also acknowledged the budget transfers needed to cover the weightings and salary adjustments for 2011, 2012 and 2013. The AC supported the work performed by ECDC to identify the potentially necessary budget cuts. It agreed that scenario A should be explored, and that scenario B would have serious implications for the work of ECDC. The AC strongly supported the ECDC/Commission to obtain additional funds to minimise the budget reductions necessary and especially to have the "outturn" returned to ECDC asap.

41. Regarding the ECDC 2015 Work Programme Priorities, the AC took note of the proposal to increase/reduce resources therein. The AC expressed their support for the work performed by ECDC to identify the necessary changes to the WP 2015.

## **Item 4a – Final Annual Accounts 2013, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management (Document MB31/8)<sup>\*</sup>**

42. Anja Van Brabant, Accounting Officer and Head of Section, Finance and Accounting, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented the final annual accounts of 2013, including the report on budgetary and financial management. The presentation was followed by the recommendations of the Audit Committee (AC).<sup>9</sup>

The Management Board endorsed the Final Annual Accounts 2013, including the report on Budgetary and Financial Management.

<sup>\*</sup> Item for decision.

<sup>8</sup> This item was discussed during a closed session for Management Board members only.

<sup>\*</sup> Item for decision.

<sup>9</sup> Item 4a- Final annual accounts 2013

***Item 4b – Second Supplementary and Amending Budget 2014, including proposal for budget transfers regarding increased weighting coefficient in Sweden (Document MB31/9)\****

43. ECDC Director, jointly with Anja Van Brabant, presented the second supplementary and amending budget 2014, including a proposal for budget transfers.<sup>10</sup> The Board was reminded of the discussions from the end of 2013 where it was informed that the Centre had to return the budget put aside for the rappel due to the negative decision of the Court of Justice. In February and May 2014, the rappel (for 2013 and 2011-2012 respectively) was paid and since then, the ECDC has been developing scenarios for ensuring enough financial resources to implement the Work Programme 2014. The Board was presented with two scenarios, A (saving 2.5 million euros) and B (saving 4.7 million euros). The Chair of the AC then presented the conclusions of the Committee.

44. The European Commission informed the Board that they are working towards avoiding the scenario B. The use already in 2014 of the 2013 outturn could however impact on the 2015 Budget. While the Commission proposed an increased allocation of fresh credits in its DB2015 (to compensate for the use in 2014 of the outturn), the final decision rests with the Parliament and the Council. In reference to consequences of any of the two scenarios, it was pointed out that postponing of activities may have a similar impact as cancelling activities. It was also realised that the impacts will only be visible later in time. In the light of the delay in the decision making process, the ECDC Director pointed out that the Centre needs to adopt the scenario B at this point in time. It was also highlighted that the Centre has always worked towards anticipating such situations.

45. Regarding the proposed budget cuts, the Commission commented that the Centre should look more closely into the budget and potential cuts for ICT, meeting costs and interim services. For the latter, the ECDC noted that the interim services are used for business continuation during parental and other similar leaves, however, this could be decreased, with a caveat that the capacity of the Centre would decrease in parallel. According to the Commission, teleworking could be used as one alternative to avoid this, even though it would not bring significant savings. It was also queried whether any external consultation, for the projects indicated to be cut, had been carried out. Regarding the overall situation, it was questioned whether any other EU Agencies have had any similar experiences and if yes, how they have dealt with this issue. It was clarified that there have been no similar situations in any of the sister agencies as it is not so relevant for the euro-zone countries, such as EFSA in Italy, nor for other Agencies, such as EMA, which are not relying fully on the community budget. The exceptional nature of this issue may therefore work in favour of the Commission's proposal. Regarding possibilities of ECDC ending their financial year in deficit, it was explained that this was unfortunately not an option for an EU Agency. Neither is it possible to transfer money between years. Any money not used shall be given back to the Member States at the year end. A note was added that in case no measures will be taken, the Centre will only be able to pay salaries until September 2014. Of note, with the scenario A, the salaries could be paid up to October, possibly November.

46. Overall, the Board agreed that the focus might need to be more on the scenario B, considering the tardiness of the final decision. It was also noted that it should be looked at whether it is possible to postpone or delay some of the measures brought out in the scenario B. For example, carry out conditional procurement, subject to budget availability. In reference to framework contracts and agreements, it was pointed out that as these are of great value to the smaller Member States, the ECDC will hopefully take this into consideration while prioritising. The activities which are supporting the overall EU benefit the most, should not be stopped. The focus on the possible cuts should be more on internal activities, such as ICT, etc. The MB also expressed their interest on what the Advisory Forum concludes on this matter, however, it was highlighted that this would only be for information as the issue is on a political level, i.e. which direction ECDC should choose to keep the core of its mission.

47. The Board agreed that it should provide their opinion for both scenarios and support the Centre; however, the MB should not provide guidance on how to spend/save the money. The Director is fully entrusted in making the right decisions in this respect. It was also noted that the Commission should also be prepared to provide a counter proposal; in case something needs to be retained from the proposed cuts, something else should be cut instead.

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\* Item for decision.

<sup>10</sup> Item 4b - Second supplementary and amending budget 2014

48. The Board was informed that the outcome of this situation also affects the work plan of 2015 and there is a possibility that SMAP needs to be revisited in this respect.

49. Reference was made to the burden of disease during austerity measures, as well as migrant health. ECDC Director reassured the Board that emphasis will continue to be placed based on the added value of the activities. It was again reinforced by the Board members that the cuts should be emphasised more on administration (travelling, missions, meetings, etc.) rather than the added value activities the Centre provides to the Member States.

50. In conclusion, the Management Board agreed with scenarios A and B of the Second Supplementary and Amending Budget 2014, including the proposal for budget transfers regarding increased weighting coefficient in Sweden, i.e. executing budget transfers to five million euros. The Board also agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Board, will draft a letter to the European Parliament and the Council in order to express the concerns of the ECDC Management Board on the potential consequences of these scenarios.

The Management Board agreed with scenarios A and B of the Second Supplementary and Amending Budget 2014, including the proposal for budget transfers regarding increased weighting coefficient in Sweden, i.e. executing budget transfers amounting to five million euros.

The Board also agreed that the Chair, on behalf of the Board, will draft a letter to the European Parliament and the Council in order to express the concerns of the ECDC Management Board on the potential consequences of these scenarios on the implementation of the ECDC 2014 Work Programme.

## **Item 18 – Update from the EU Presidencies:\***

### ***Item 18a – Update from Greece***

51. Maria Pirounaki, MB Alternate, Greece, updated the Board on the activities of the Greek EU Presidency.<sup>11</sup>

The Management Board took note of the presentation of the Greek EU Presidency.

## **Item 6 – ECDC 2015 Work Programme Priorities: the next steps forward (Document MB31/7)\***

52. ECDC Director provided an update on the ECDC 2015 Work Programme Priorities.<sup>12</sup> The presentation provided an overview on the core activities and the required resources. The Board was also presented with the proposals on which activities to reduce, i.e. stop or postpone.

53. Due to scheduling constraints, the discussion/decision on this matter was postponed until Day 2.

## **Item 8 – ECDC Management Board meeting dates 2015 and 2016 (Document MB31/10)\***

54. The meeting dates for the Management Board meetings in 2015 and 2016 were presented to the Board. The Chair recalled the possibility of an extraordinary meeting at the beginning of 2015 and proposed to already suggest for an actual date for this meeting.

55. Regarding the proposed dates for 2016, it was highlighted that the meeting in March could be rescheduled due to the adjacent Easter Holidays.

\* Item for information.

<sup>11</sup> Item 18a - Update on Greek EU Presidency

\* Item for decision.

<sup>12</sup> Item 6 - ECDC 2015 Work Programme Priorities

\* Item for decision.

56. The Board agreed that the revised meeting dates, including the extraordinary meeting, shall be presented to the MB during the Day 2 of the meeting.

### ***Opening and welcome by the Chair (Day 2)***

57. The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the ECDC Director for the pleasant dinner the evening before.

## **Item 9 – Timeline and process for nomination of ECDC Director 2015-2020 – continued<sup>\*13</sup>**

58. Closed session for Management Board members/alternates only. It was requested to have sufficient time during the meeting in November 2014 to discuss this important matter further. Additionally, the Board expects as much information on the ongoing selection process as possible.

The Management Board endorsed the proposal of the European Commission in respect to the publication of the vacancy notice for the ECDC Director, with a caveat that further clarifications on the legal aspects of the process will be expected from the Commission. It was agreed to submit comments and subsequently approve of the vacancy notice via written procedure.

The Board also agreed to submit a list of all volunteers willing to act as observers in the work of the Pre-Selection panel for the ECDC Director to the Commission with a proposal to appoint a panel of three potential observers instead of one.

## **Item 6 – ECDC 2015 Work Programme Priorities: the next steps forward (Document MB31/7)\* – continued**

59. The Chair recalled the discussions from the Day 1. ECDC Director noted that a follow up meeting for all ECDC staff has been scheduled to convene after the Board meeting in order to ensure that all relevant information is shared, especially considering the impact of scenario B on the Centre and its staff.

60. In reference to the 2015 Work Programme priorities, the Centre was asked to also address the issue of the emergence of Lyme disease, currently not included in the presented document, as the number of cases is increasing. Similarly, dengue fever, vector-borne diseases, migrant health, hepatitis and evaluation panels were brought fourth. Considering the prioritisation of AMR, HIV and vaccines, the distribution of FTE's for the vaccines was questioned, as this seems to have been decreased. The AMR and vaccine effectiveness activities in general were strongly supported. It was also suggested that the Advisory Forum should provide its opinion on the Work Programme 2015, at least on the scientific level. Overall, it was pointed out that the Member State capacities should also be considered while drafting the Programme, as there are also constraints in countries. For instance, the capacities/resources available and studies in place/planned to contribute to the ECDC Work Programme should be better considered when ECDC builds its programme. Considering the mandate of ECDC, and in case choices have to be made, the focus should remain on core business, i.e. surveillance, risk assessments, etc.

61. On a general note, the discussions on the roles of the Board and Commission in respect to the Work Programme were recalled from the end of 2013, and it was hoped that the overall process and responsibilities will be clarified. The Commission pointed out that the Work Programme should be drafted based on the Founding Regulation. The MB reiterated their request to have clear planning in place for the entire process.

62. The European Commission informed the Board that, based on what many Member States had already expressed, the AMR, HIV, STIs, migrant health and vulnerable populations should remain in the agenda of the Centre. A caveat in migrant health, however, should be not to discriminate against this layer of population, and it should also be realised that screening without possibilities for treatment is not useful. In reference to the vaccines, it was recalled that the Commission will propose

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\* Item for decision.

<sup>13</sup> This item was discussed during a closed session for Management Board members only.

\* Item for decision.

this issue for the new College. Considering the decision on cross-border health threats, the points where ECDC needs to provide input are clearly defined, such as preparedness. And the roles of the HSC and ECDC shall be clarified, as already discussed during the previous item on the decision during Day 1. Further on the cross-border health threats, it was questioned whether the Commission sees the role in risk and crisis communication for ECDC. It was stated that this issue is currently still under discussion.

63. In reference to postponing or cancelling activities, as it is difficult to foresee the potential consequences, it was agreed that, based on feedback received during the June MB meeting, a new version of the 2015 Work Programme Priorities will be circulated to the Board via written procedure in September, in order to take into account their consolidated views. Following the written procedure, the final draft will be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval in the November meeting.

64. In conclusion, the Board agreed to keep a very close eye on the overall process of the Work Programme for 2015.

The Management Board decided on the provisional budget and priorities in order that ECDC can further develop the 2015 Work Programme for decision in the November Board meeting. It was also agreed that, based on feedback received during the June MB meeting, a new version of the 2015 Work Programme Priorities will be circulated to the Board via written procedure in September, in order to take into account their consolidated views. Following the written procedure, the final draft will be prepared and submitted to the Board for approval in the November meeting.

## **Item 5 – Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2014 up until present (*Document MB31/6*)\***

65. Philippe Harant, Head of Section, Quality Management, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented the report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2014 up until present.<sup>14</sup>

66. ECDC Director pointed out the new requests on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI), which had been submitted by the Commission and in the light of these requests, the Centre, in order to strengthen the ARHAI activities and its HAIs branch, needs to reallocate some resources as soon as possible. The proposal on the ARHAI activities for 2014 was presented to the Board and it was agreed that the ARHAI Work Plan 2014 would be adjusted to focus on key priorities and new requests and increasing ARHAI resources by three FTEs as of 2015 and thereby adapting available resources to the workload and level of importance of these public health issues.<sup>15</sup>

The Management Board approved the report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2014 up until present, including the ECDC Director's proposal to strengthen ARHAI and its HAIs branch by adjusting the ARHAI Work Plan 2014 to focus on key priorities and new requests and increasing ARHAI resources by three FTEs as of 2015 and thereby adapting available resources to the workload and level of importance of these public health issues.

## **Item 18 – Update from the EU Presidencies:\***

### ***Item 18b – Update from Italy***

67. Maria Grazia Pompa, MB Alternate, Italy, briefed the Board on the activities of the forthcoming Italian EU Presidency.

The Management Board took note of the presentation on the Italian EU Presidency.

\* Item for decision.

<sup>14</sup> Item 5 - Implementation of WP 2014

<sup>15</sup> Please refer to the MB Extranet (Item 5 - Strengthening ARHAI - 2014-2015 WP)

\* Item for information.

## Item 8 – ECDC Management Board meeting dates 2015 and 2016 (*Document MB31/10*)\* – continued

68. The Board was presented with the revised meeting dates for 2015 and 2016, including the proposed dates for the Extraordinary Management Board meeting as follows:<sup>16</sup>

- Extraordinary MB meeting 21-22 January 2015
- MB33 24-25 March 2015
- MB34 16-17 June 2015
- MB35 25-26 November 2015
- MB36 15-16 March 2016
- MB37 15-16 June 2016
- MB38 16-17 November 2016

69. The above-noted meetings will be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Management Board adopted the MB meeting dates for 2015 and took note of the provisional meeting dates for 2016.

## Item 19 – Announcement regarding the MB32 election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the ECDC Management Board

70. The Chair announced the elections for the Chair and Deputy Chair during the next meeting in November and noted that the deadline for submitting nominations is 27 October 2014. The Chair also confirmed her willingness to continue in her role, subject to the election results.

The Management Board took note of the elections of the Chair and Deputy Chair, which are scheduled to convene during the next meeting in November 2014.

## Item 20 – Any other business

71. The following items were postponed from the agenda due to scheduling constraints: Update from the European Commission: research activities and launch of new initiatives, ECDC Briefing on staff matters (Improving performance: ECDC initiatives on quality management; and Third report to the Management Board on ECDC performance), Annual report of the Compliance Officer to the Director on the implementation of ECDC's Independence Policy in 2013, ECDC cooperation with the host country.

72. The representative of the Netherlands highlighted the scheduling of the ministerial meeting in the Hague and encouraged the Board members to refer any related questions to her.

73. The Chair, Françoise Weber, thanked all the participants for their input and fruitful discussions during the meeting. The Chair also thanked the colleagues of ECDC for their outstanding professionalism throughout the meeting, and last but not least, a special thank you was extended to the interpreters for their expert assistance. A special thank you, on behalf of the Board, was also extended to Johan Giesecke. The Board, on their behalf, praised the Chair for her exceptional work during the meeting.

74. The next meeting of the ECDC Management Board will convene in Stockholm on 18-19 November 2014.

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\* Item for decision.

<sup>16</sup> Item 8 - ECDC MB meeting dates 2015 and 2016