



# Health Protection in Europe 2008-2013

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Angus Nicoll CBE, UK Seconded National Expert

## Why was ECDC established?

- Emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases revitalised through globalisation, bio-terrorism, interconnectivity, and EU without internal borders (the Fifth EU freedom)
- Health implications of enlarging EU
- Strengthen EU public health capacity to help meet EU citizen's concerns





# Expanded Europe – the Fifth Freedom



1. Free Movement of People \*
2. Free Movement of Services \*
3. Free Movement of Goods
4. Free Movement of Monies \*

## 5. Free Movement of Micro-organisms

\*Adapted from *Summary of Legislation - Internal Market* <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/s70000.htm>

# Broad health mandate – initially for communicable diseases only

Founding Regulation 851/2004/EC



- Main mission: Identify, assess & communicate current & emerging health threats
- Risk identification, monitoring, assessment and communication
  - Surveillance, Epidemic intelligence
  - Risk Communication
- Preparedness and Response
- Training
- Scientific opinions and guidelines
- Advisory role to European Commission

***MS/EC/ECDC/Presidency/WHO collaboration needed for success***

# How Europe Works

....well its complicated

*Of course I would like to consult Europe –  
but could you tell me the number to call?*

Henry Kissenger

# Treaties and Law

The European Union is based on the rule of law. This means that everything that it does is derived from treaties, which are agreed on voluntarily and democratically by all Member States. Previously signed treaties have been changed and updated to keep up with developments in society. The most recent one, the [Lisbon treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe](#), aims to replace all the existing Treaties with a single text

## So, what is the EU?

The **European Union** (EU) is a family of democratic European countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity. It is not a State intended to replace existing States, nor is it just an organisation for international cooperation. The EU is, in fact, unique. Its member states have set up common institutions to which they delegate some of their sovereignty so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level.

## The European Union

With the entry into force of the [Maastricht Treaty](#) in November of 1993, the European Economic Community changed its name and became the European Community.

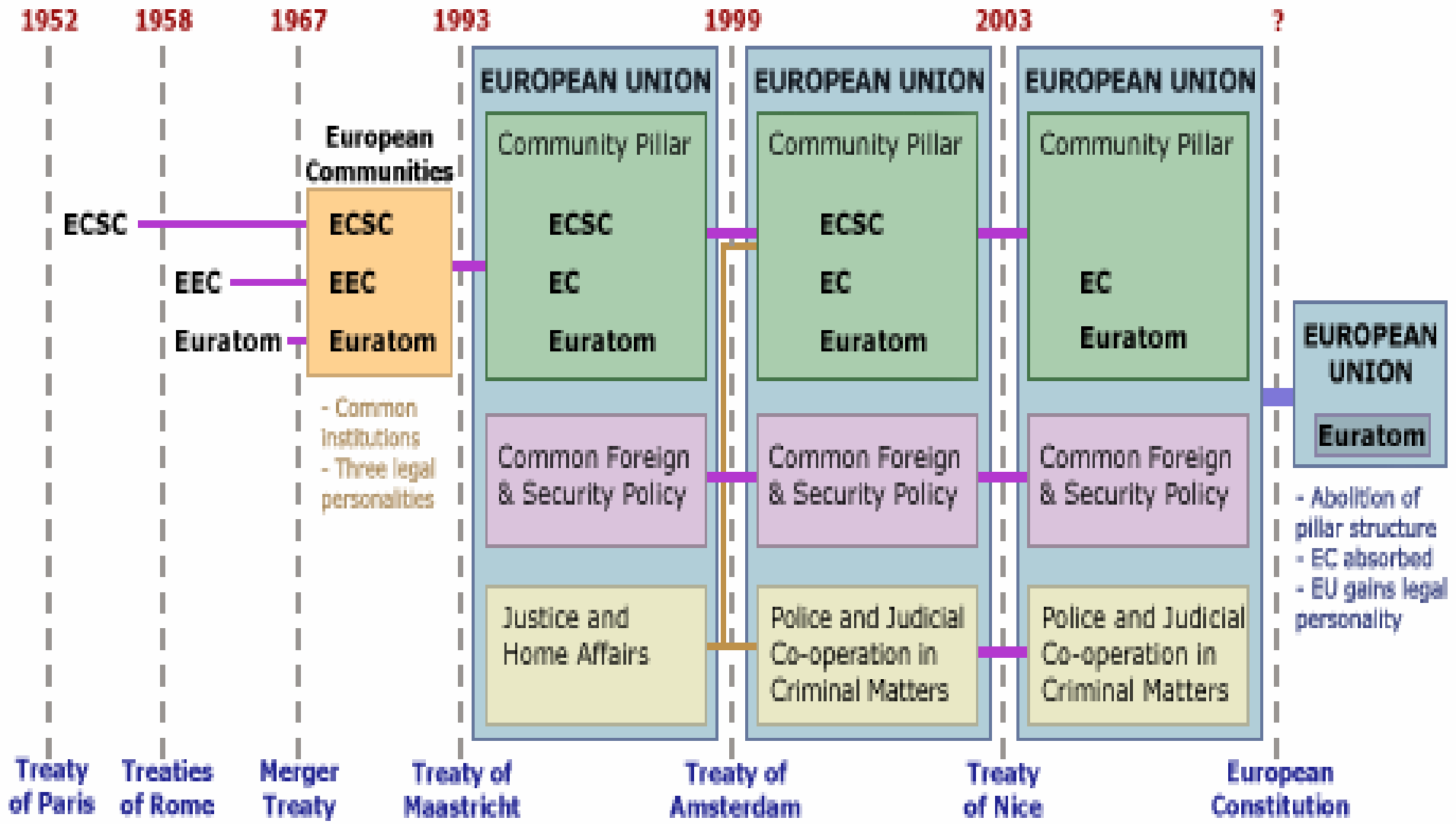
With the two other pillars, the European Community also became known as the **European Union** which exists today.

## Some History

**The European Communities** is the name given collectively to:

- the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC),
- the European Economic Community (EEC), and
- the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom),

when in 1967, they were merged under a single institutional framework with the Merger Treaty.



# The institutions



## ➤ The 5 institutions according to the treaties

- The European Parliament (the Elected Members)
- The Council (the Prime Ministers)
- The Commission (the Administration)
- The Court of justice
- The Court of Auditors

## ➤ The “institutional triangle”

- **The European Parliament**
- **The Council**
- **The Commission**
- **[The Presidency?]**

# The institutions



## ➤ The European Parliament

- Name: « Assembly »  
then « Parliament » since the SEA
- Seat: Strasbourg
  - Administration: Luxembourg
  - Plenary sessions: Strasbourg (12)
  - Committee meetings and mini-plenary sessions: Brussels
- Current President: Hans-Gert Poettering (**allemand**)
  - Mandate: 2 years ½ according to the internal regulation of the EP



Strasbourg



Bruxelles

## ● Bureau of the European Parliament:

- President + 14 Vice-Presidents
- 6 Quaestors: observer members

(Role: responsible for administrative and financial affairs of direct concern to MEPs)

# The institutions



## ➤ The European Parliament

- **Elections:**

- Since 1979, every 5 years. Next ones: June 2009
- One citizen, one vote
- Elections during the same time period of a week
- Conditions to be a member of Parliament: not to be a member of a Community institution or a Government

- **Composition:**

- According to the Amsterdam Treaty: 700 members maximum
- According to the Nice Treaty: 732 members maximum
- **According to the Act of Accession of Bulgaria and Romania: 736 maximum**
- **Current number of members: 785**
- **According to the treaty of Lisbon: 750 members max. + 1: the president = 751**
  - Minimum: 6 members per member State
  - Maximum: 96 members
- **Bulgarian members: elections on 20 May 2007**
- **Romanian members: elections on 25 November 2007**

# The institutions



## ➤ The European Parliament

- Powers of the Parliament:
  - **Legislative power:** shared with the Council
  - **Democratic control:**
    - The European Parliament exerts a democratic supervision over all the European institutions, notably the European Commission.
    - Nomination of the Commission: approval of the President; approval of the nominated President and the other members of the Commission
    - Motion of censure (since the treaty of Rome):  
2/3 majority of the votes and simple majority of the members
    - Written and oral questions
  - **The budgetary authority:**
    - Shared with the Council.
- 20 permanent thematic parliamentary committees  
(currently: + 1 temporary committee and 2 sub-committees)

# The institutions



## ➤ The European Parliament

- The legislative procedures
  - Consultation procedure
  - Cooperation procedure
  - Codecision procedure
  - Assent
  - + Budgetary procedure
- Role of the Rapporteur
  - To follow a legislative proposal, to prepare the report of the concerned thematic committee
- The Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought
  - Established in 1988, in the name of the famous Russian dissident, awarded every year to an international personality who distinguished him/herself in the field of human rights
  - December 2007: Salih Mahmoud Osman, Sudanese human rights lawyer

# The institutions

## ➤ The Council & The Presidency

- Seat: Brussels
- Role:
  - Adopts the European legislation
  - Coordinates the broad economic policy guidelines
  - Concludes international agreements
  - Approves the budget, together with the Parliament
  - Defines CFSP
  - Coordinates the judicial authorities and the national police forces in criminal matters
- Composition:
  - One representative per member States
  - At ministerial level, authorized to commit its government
- Public session:
  - Debates and votes in codecision + other important debates



# The institutions



## ➤ The Council

- 9 configurations:
  - General Affairs and External Relations
  - Economic and Financial Affairs ("ECOFIN")
  - Justice and Home Affairs
  - Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
  - Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research)
  - Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
  - Agriculture and Fisheries
  - Environment
  - Education, Youth and Culture
- One and only institution
- A rarer configuration:
  - The Council meeting in the composition of the heads of State or Government

## 5. The institutions

### ➤ The Council

- Presidencies of the Council of the EU: **(subject to revision 2008?)**
  - 2005 : Luxembourg then : United Kingdom
  - 2006 : Austria then : Finland
  - 2007 : Germany then : Portugal
  - 2008 : Slovenia then : **France**
  - **2009 : Czech Republic then : Sweden**
  - 2010 : Spain then : Belgium
  - 2011 : Hungary then : Poland
  - 2012 : Denmark then : Cyprus
  - 2013 : Ireland then : Lithuania
  - 2014 : Greece then : Italy
  - 2015 : Latvia then : Luxembourg
  - 2016 : Netherlands then : Slovakia
  - 2017 : Malta then : United Kingdom
  - 2018 : Estonia then : Bulgaria
  - 2019 : Austria then : Romania
  - 2020 : Finland



# The institutions

## ➤ The Council



- The weighting of votes:

– France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.....	29
– Poland, Spain.....	27
– + 2007-2009: Romania.....	14
– Netherlands.....	13
– Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal.....	12
– Austria, Sweden + 2007-2009: Bulgaria.....	10
– Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Finland.....	7
– Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia.....	4
– Malta.....	3
– TOTAL.....	345

# The institutions



## ➤ The Council

- Qualified majority voting:
  - When the decision is taken on a proposal from the Commission:
    - at least 255 out of 345 votes (73,9%)
    - and the majority of member States.
  - When the decision is not taken on a proposal from the Commission :
    - at least 255 out of 345 votes
    - and the favourable vote of at least 2/3 of the member States
  - In all cases, any member State may ask to verify:
    - whether favourable votes represent at least 62% of the total population of the Union

If this condition is not met, the decision is not adopted
- **According to the Treaty of Lisbon: from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2014**
  - 55% of member States and 65% of the population

# The institutions

## ➤ **The European Council** ➤ (not to be confused with 'the Council')

- Its status:
  - Not an institution as such
  - Set up by the Paris Summit in 1974
  - 1st mention: SEA
  - Constitutional Treaty: becomes an institution according to the treaties
- Composition:
  - Heads of State or government of the member States  
+ the President of the European Commission
  - President: the head of State or government in charge of the EU presidency
- Role:
  - To give impetus and political guidelines
  - To adopt "conclusions"



# The institutions



## ➤ The European Council

- Decision making: consensus
- Meeting places: Brussels
  - Declaration n°22 of the Nice Treaty
    - “As from 2002, one European Council meeting per Presidency will be held in Brussels. When the Union comprises 18 members, all European Council meetings will be held in Brussels”
  - At least 2 meetings per year
- Not to confuse with the Council of Europe

# The institutions

## ➤ The European Commission

- Seat: Brussels
  - Offices in Luxembourg.
  - Representations in all EU member States.
  - Delegations in numerous capitals of third countries
- Role:
  - The guardian of the EU treaties
  - Power of legislative initiative
    - exclusive power for the 1st pillar
    - shared for the 3rd pillar
  - Implementation of policies, delegated by the Council
  - Negotiations of international agreements
  - Formulations of recommendations and opinions
  - Execution of the budget



# The institutions



## ➤ The European Commission

- **Composition:**

- Until 1st May 2004 :
  - 20 commissioners, one per member State, except for the 5 biggest member States: 2
- From 1st May 2004 until 31 October (21 November) 2004 :
  - 30 commissioners: the 20 previous ones plus one per new member State.
- From (1st) 22 November 2004 until end 2006:
  - 1 commissioner per member State : 25
  - Including 5 vice—presidents
- Since beginning of 2007: 27 commissioners (cf. BG + RO)

According to the Nice treaty, the Council will then have to determine unanimously the maximum number of commissioners. This number will have to be smaller than 27 and their nationality will be determined via a system of perfect equal rotation between countries.
- According to the treaty of Lisbon:
  - 2009-2014: 1 commissioner per member State
  - From 2014: 2/3 of the number of member States

# The institutions



## ➤ The European Commission

- Nomination procedure:
  - 5 year mandate, renewable
  - Procedure:
    - The Council, meeting in the composition of Heads of State or Government and acting by a qualified majority, shall nominate the person it intends to appoint as President of the Commission;
    - The nomination shall be approved by the European Parliament.
    - Each Member State makes proposals of persons.
    - The Council, acting by a qualified majority and by common accord with the nominee for President, shall adopt the list of the other persons whom it intends to appoint as Members of the Commission.
    - The President and the other Members of the Commission thus nominated shall be subject, as a body, to a vote of approval by the European Parliament.
    - After approval by the European Parliament, the President and the other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council, acting by a qualified majority.
  - Before taking up their duties, the commissioners take an oath before the Court of Justice

# The European Court of Justice



- The Court's job is to ensure that EU law is complied with, and that the treaties are correctly interpreted and applied.
- The Court of Justice is also the only institution that can, at the request of the national courts, give a ruling on the interpretation of the treaties and on the validity and interpretation of EU law.

# The European Court of Auditors



Proper accounting and sticking to the legal rules is especially important in the EU - The *Court of Auditors* checks that all the European Union's revenue has been received and all its expenditure incurred in a lawful and regular manner and that the EU budget has been managed soundly.

# The European Central Bank



Based in Frankfurt, the Central Bank is responsible for managing the euro — for example, by setting interest rates. Its prime concern is ensuring price stability so that the European economy is not damaged by inflation. The Bank takes its decisions independently of governments and other bodies.

# **THE SCHENGEN AGREEMENTS (1985 onwards)**



*Establishing an area of free movements (without having to show your passport – but make sure you have it or an ID card with you!)*

*5 founding member States:*

- Belgium , France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands
- ***Until 2007: 13 member States + 2 associated States***
- The 13 former EU members, except Ireland and the United Kingdom
- + 2 associated States: Iceland and Norway
- ***Nowadays: 22 member States + 2 associates States***
- 13+ 9 new member States: the "10" new member States of the EU minus Cyprus
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2007: lifting of internal border controls at the land and sea borders
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007: at air borders
- ? ***Future members ( "SIS II "in 2008 + control of borders, etc.)***
- Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania
- Switzerland (cf. positive referendum in June 2005), Liechtenstein

**Recently the European Union has become much more interested in public health**

# A new strategic approach to health for the EU (2008-2013) – EU White Paper

EU White Paper October 2007  
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11579.htm>

# A new strategic approach to health for the EU (2008-2013) – EU White Paper



- New EU White Paper (October 2007) sets out a new Community health strategy until 2013
- Designed to confront the growing challenges to the health of Europe's citizens such as
  - population ageing,
  - global warming & extreme weather
  - cross-border health threats – infections and chemicals
  - illnesses linked to unhealthy lifestyles.
- Strategy will strengthen, in a single strategic framework, Community cooperation where Member States cannot act alone
- Ensure health is better understood at European level and worldwide,
- Secure a bigger role for health in all EU policies.

EU White Paper October 2007 <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11579.htm>

# Climate Change as a Driver of Disease



## EU told to prepare for flood of climate change migrants

Within a decade "there will be **millions of environmental migrants**, with climate change as one of the major drivers of this phenomenon," predict Javier Solana and Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the EU's chief foreign policy coordinator and the European commissioner for external relations. "Europe must expect substantially increased migratory pressure."

"**Climate change is best viewed as a threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends**, tensions and instability," Solana and Ferrero-Waldner say. "The core challenge is that climate change threatens to overburden states and regions which are already fragile and conflict-prone. The risks include political and security risks that directly affect European interests."

# Century Flood in Dresden, August 2002

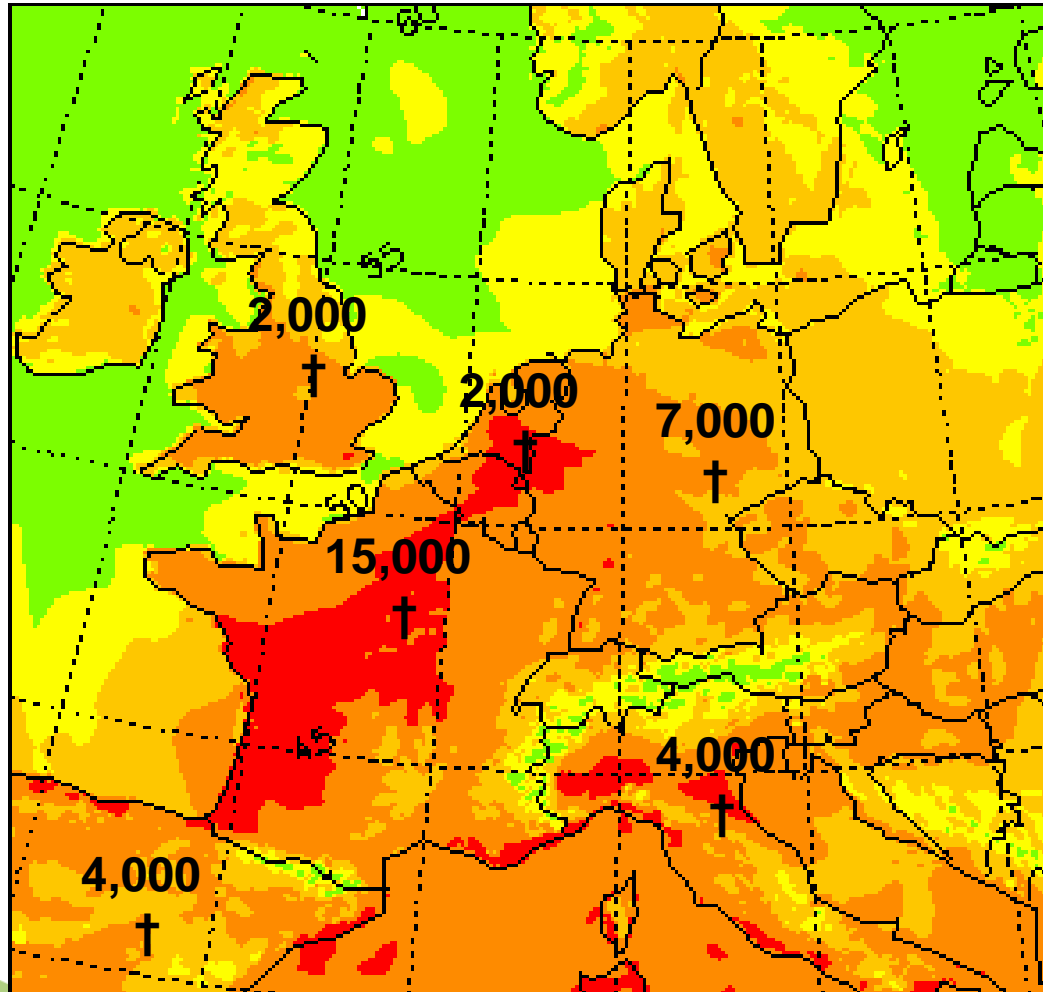
Economic losses of total event: € 16 bn

Insured losses: € 3.4 bn



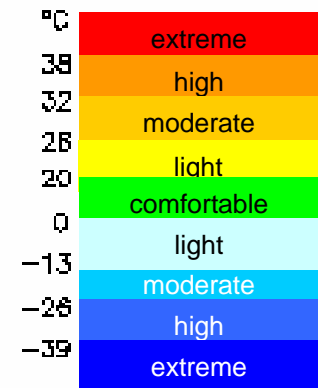
# Extreme Weather the Heat Wave of 2003, the Largest Human Natural Catastrophe in Europe for Centuries

Perceived Temperature on 8 August 2003 and excess mortality



More than 35,000 (possibly 50,000) died because of the heat!

Heat stress

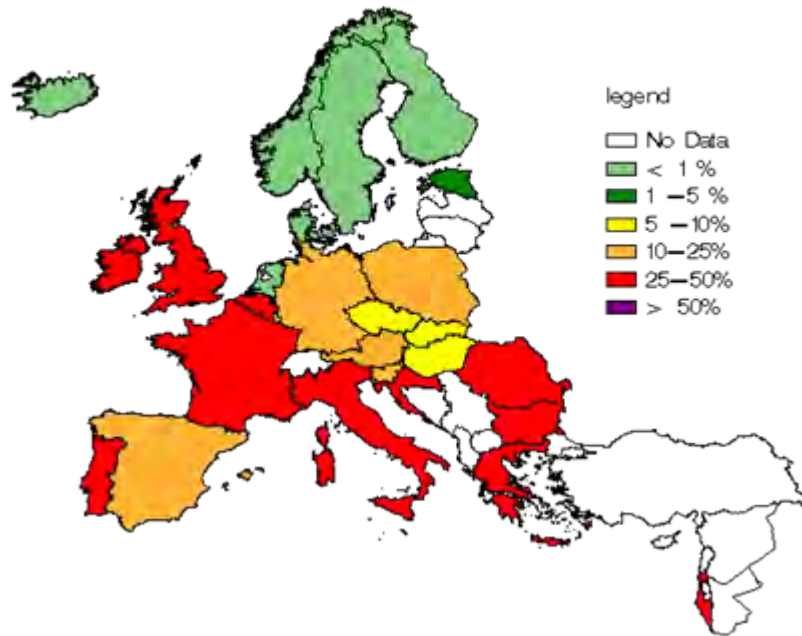


Cold stress

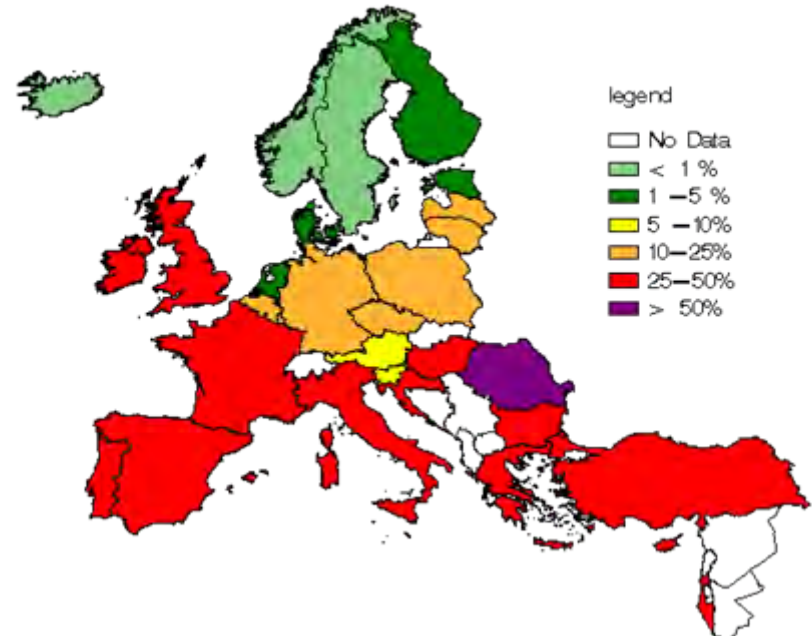
UTC  
13:00 36

# Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), Blood and Spinal Fluid

2002



2006



# How Europe Responds to the European Union on Health Issues



- Ambivalent approach to health – Common Agriculture Programme
- Tension on Member States Rights!
- Large States vs Smaller States
- The area of health is essentially the responsibility of the Member States.
- Health Services Organisation and Funding and Public Health
- The role of the European Union (European treaties) is to undertake measures to supplement the work of the Member States, while providing European added value, particularly with regard to major health threats, issues that have a cross-border or international impact and questions relating to the free movement of goods, services and people.
- Accordingly, a cross-sectoral approach is vital and all Community policies must play a role in health protection.

# A new strategic approach to health for the EU (2008-2013) – EU White Paper

EU White Paper October 2007  
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11579.htm>

# Four principles and Three strategic objectives

# Principle 1: a strategy based on shared health values



- In 2006, the Council adopted a statement on these values, underlining that universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity were fundamental.
- Coming - new statement on the common values of health policy in the broader sense should be adopted based on this Council statement.
- Patients' rights, participation in decision making and health literacy, should also be taken into consideration in Community health policy. Consequently, the Commission must support programmes that boost health literacy among different age groups.
- Recognition of inequalities in the health sector. Reducing inequalities is linked to improving health so the Commission will put forward measures to help reduce these inequalities.
- Health policy must be based on the best scientific evidence. The Commission must gather comparable data from the Member States. Therefore, a system of health indicators is needed, with common mechanisms for collecting comparable data.

# Principle II: health is the greatest wealth



- A healthy population is a prerequisite for economic productivity and prosperity. How long the population lives in good health, is a key factor for economic growth.
- Spending on health-related problems represents a significant economic burden for society. The first priority for health expenditure should be investment in prevention, to protect the general health of the population.
- It is not always easy to understand the economic impact of an improvement in health levels or the economic factors linked to health and sickness.
- The Commission and the Member States must develop a programme of analytical studies of the economic relationships between health status, health investment and economic growth.

## Principle III: health in all policies

- Health policy is not the only policy of decisive importance in health matters. Other policies, such as environment, research and regional policies, those regulating pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs, those coordinating social security systems and those governing tobacco taxation, play an essential role. Accordingly, synergies must be created between all the sectors that are of vital importance for health.
- Health in all policies allows a system of more effective Community action to be put in place.
- Globalisation means that the *HIAP approach* must also be applied to foreign policy, including development and trade.
- The Commission and the Member States must ensure health concerns are better integrated into all policies at Community, Member State and regional level.

# Principle IV: strengthening the EU's voice in global health



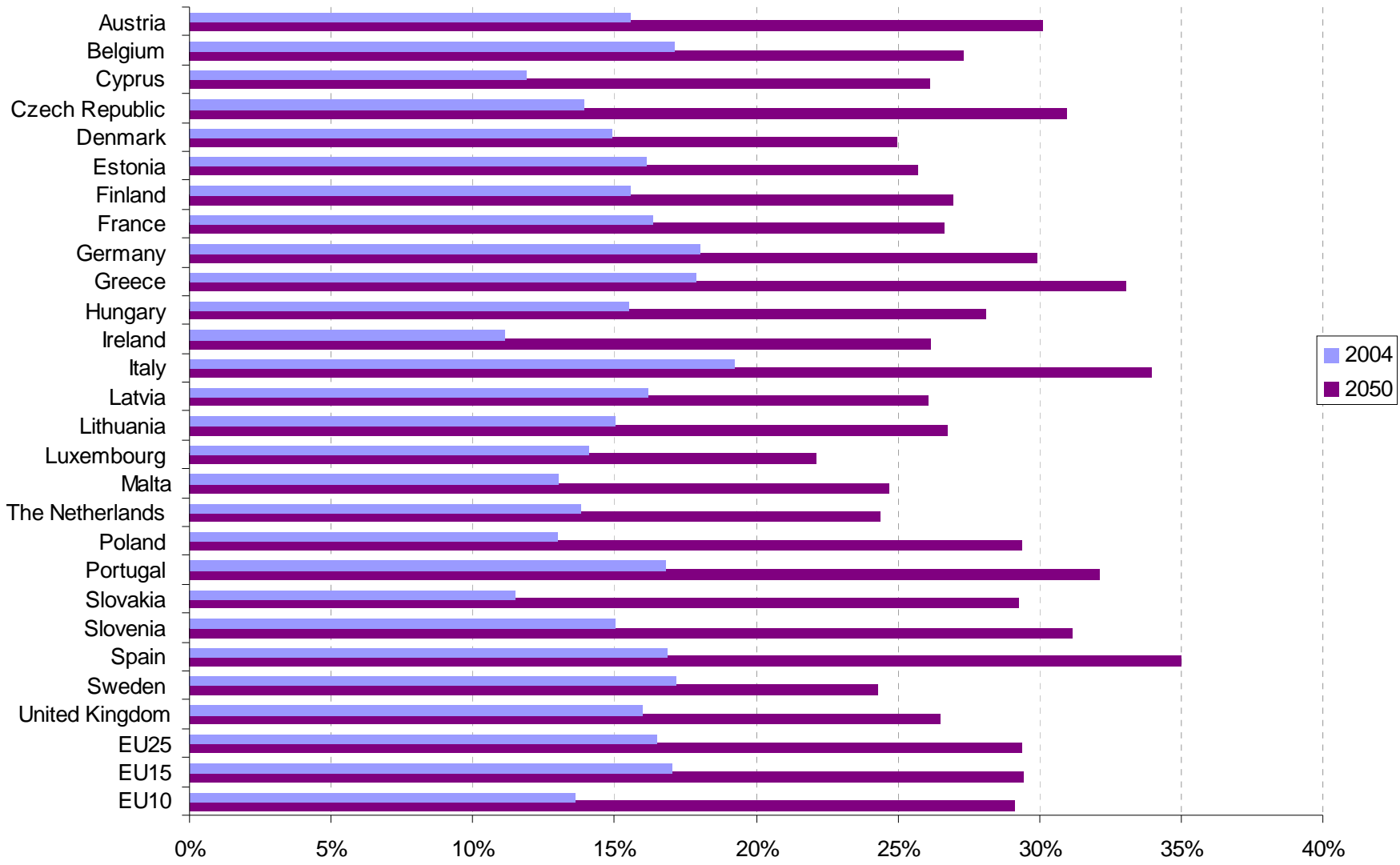
- In order to better protect the health of its citizens and citizens of third countries, the EU must do more to improve health throughout the world.
- Community actions must not be disassociated from actions taken at a global level.
- The EU must therefore consolidate its position within international organisations and strengthen cooperation with its partners.
- Finally, it must ensure that health concerns are properly provided for in EU external assistance mechanisms and that international health agreements are implemented, particularly international health regulations.

# Objective I: fostering good health in an ageing Europe



- Europe has a low birth rate and people are living longer and longer. In the future, population ageing is bound to lead to a sharp rise in demand for healthcare.
- This could push up healthcare spending, but this rise could be halved if people remained healthy as they got older.
- The Commission must therefore support appropriate measures to improve the health of older people, active people and children, so as to help the population become more productive and age in good health.
- Other measures concerning tobacco, nutrition, alcohol and mental health must also be developed, and new guidelines on cancer screening will be prepared.

People 65 years and over, by percent of population  
2004 census Data Compared with 2050 Projected Data



Data not stated for Bulgaria, Romania (joined EU in 2005) Iceland and Norway  
Data as published for Luxembourg and Malta

Source: EPC (The Economic Policy Committee) and European Commission (December 2005)

# Objective II: protecting citizens from health threats



- Protecting human health is an obligation in the EU. At Community level, this protection includes scientific risk assessment, preparedness for and response to epidemics and bioterrorism, improving workers' safety and measures concerning accidents.
- However, there must be Community cooperation and coordination between the Member States and international actors in order to combat pandemics, biological incidents and bioterrorism.
- The impact on public health of new threats, such as those linked to climate change, must also be studied, and the mechanisms for surveillance and response to health threats must be strengthened.

## Objective III: supporting dynamic health systems and new technologies



- New technologies can improve disease prevention and facilitate patient safety.
- A Community framework for safe and high-quality health services is therefore needed and, in particular, measures to support the Member States and regions in managing innovation in health systems.

**Fine words but.....**

# Implementation mechanism and financing - The Money and Opportunities!



- The Member States must work together closely for the purposes of this strategy. The Commission will therefore put forward a structured cooperation mechanism for implementing the strategy to promote cooperation between the Member States.
- This strategy will be financed by the current financial instruments, which expire in 2013.

## Mechanisms:

DG Research

Public Health Executive Agency

[http://ec.europa.eu/phea/calls/call\\_for\\_proposals\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/phea/calls/call_for_proposals_en.html)

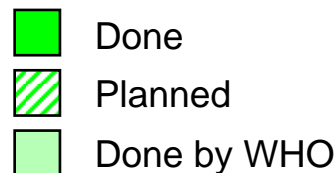
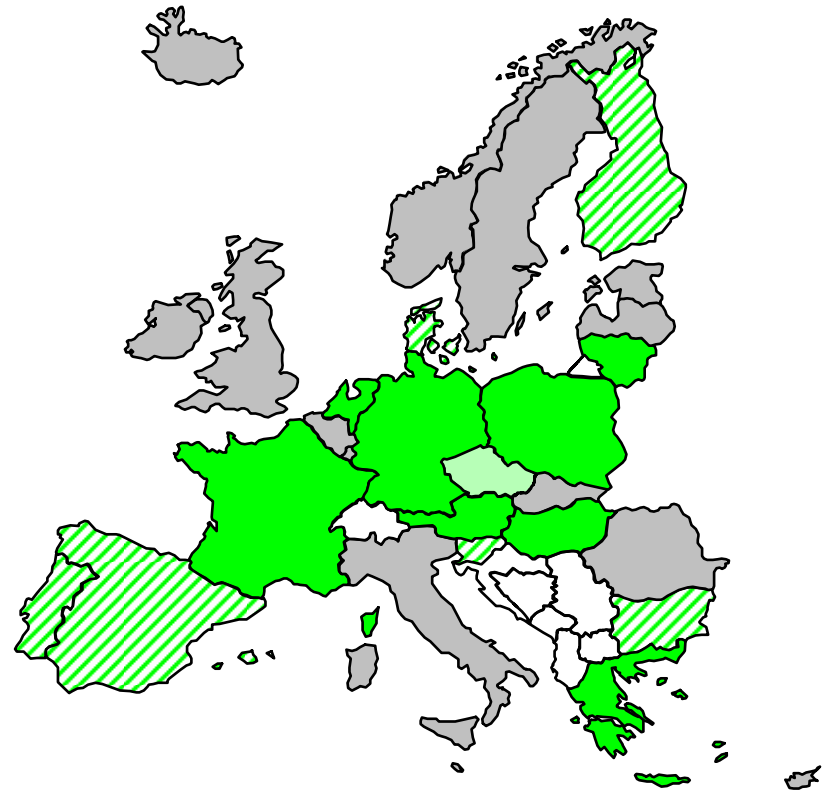
PHEA - UK National Focal Point – Bryony Lloyd

[Bryony.lloyd@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bryony.lloyd@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

[http://ec.europa.eu/phea/documents/list\\_NFPs.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/phea/documents/list_NFPs.pdf)

# Country Visits to Discuss Antimicrobial Resistance

1. Development of a Member State Coordinating Group
2. Organized multidisciplinary and multisectoral collab. on local level
3. Laboratory capacity
4. Monitoring of antibiotic resistance
5. Monitoring of antibiotic usage
6. Antibiotic utilization and treatment guidance
7. Infection control
8. Educational programs on AMR
9. Public information related to AMR
10. Marketing related issues



## Added Value of Europe?

How can quality of health care be safeguarded across the European Union?

- Helena Legido-Quigley, Martin McKee, Kieran Walshe, Rosa Suárez-Villa, Ellen Nolte, Niek Klazinga

BMJ 2008;336:920-923 doi:10.1136/bmj.39538.584190.47

Added Value of Europe – EMEA

Added Value of Europe – ECDC – **Shared Solutions – the Member State to Member State approach**

# EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY



18 November 2008

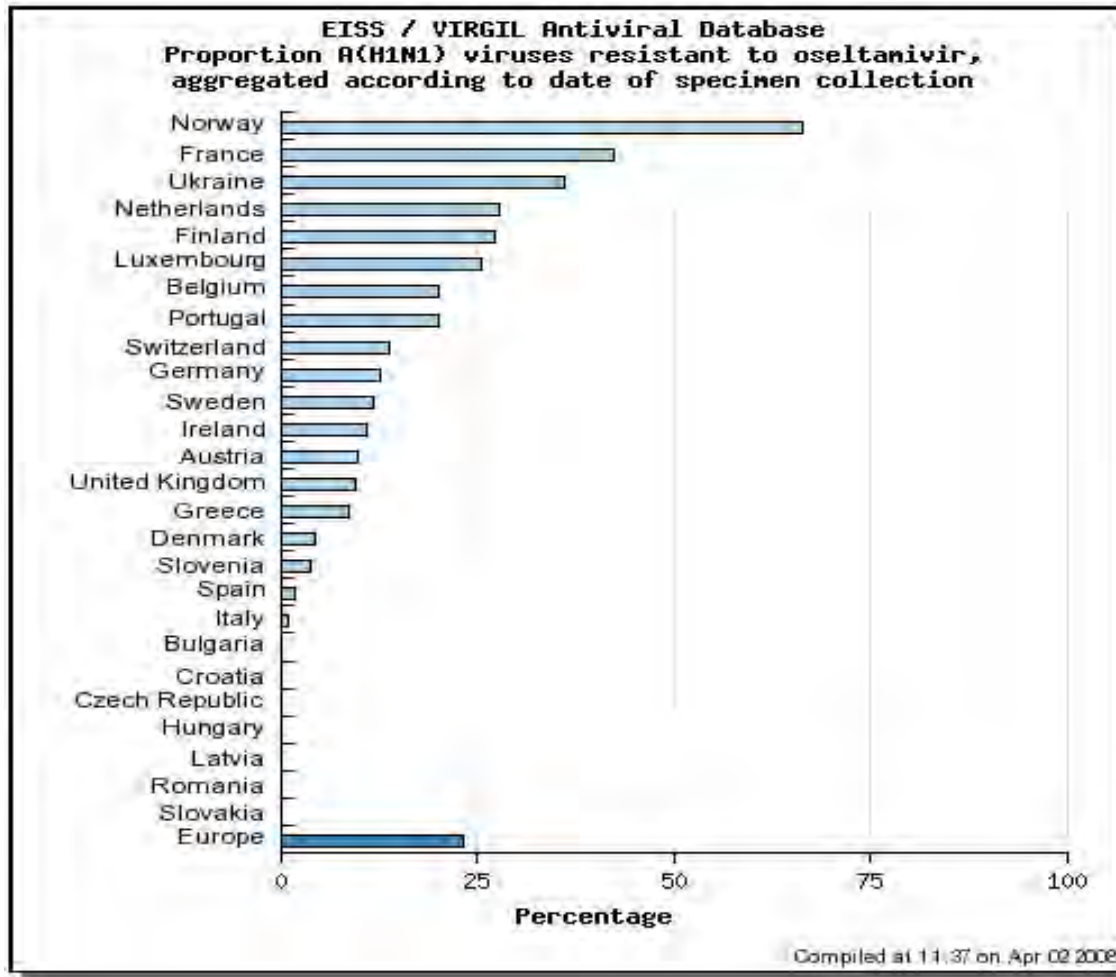
A European health initiative



# An example of an emerging threat

Antiviral resistance to oseltamivir –  
influenza A(H1N1)

# Emergence of Resistant Influenza A(H1N1) viruses 2008 – EU Surveillance Success (VIRGIL-HPA & EISS)



*Data were provided through the EISS and the VIRGIL Project (Influenza Section – HPA) ECDC would like to thank all countries, virologists, clinicians and others for contributing data. Funding for the VIRGIL project comes from the European Union FP6 Research Programme and EISS Is becoming part of ECDC (September 2008).*

# The first fit oseltamivir – resistant human influenza viruses - Implications?

## Treatment and Stockpiles

# Acknowledgements



- Massimo Ciotti
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and many others at ECDC

# Thank you



[www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu) | [info@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:info@ecdc.europa.eu)