



**FVE feedback on the European Commission's  
Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No  
851/2004 establishing a European Centre for Disease  
Prevention and Control**

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) welcomes the proposal of the European Commission for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 851/2004 establishing a European Centre for disease prevention and control, which looks into extending the mandate of the Agency.

Nevertheless, FVE misses in the proposal and the additional proposed amendments by the Members of the European Parliament a call for **implementation of a truly integrated One-Health approach that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration for a coordinated response at EU level.**

Whereas:

- FVE welcomes the Commission's proposal foreseeing a reinforced role for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) - in particular the provision that "*ECDC should also take a One-Health approach, together with other relevant EU Agencies, to the issue, considering the interactions between humans, animals and the environment*". However, we remark that **the One-Health approach is not clearly incorporated in the scope and mission of the Agency.** Whereas EU<sup>i,ii</sup> and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,<sup>iii,iv</sup> the World Bank,<sup>v,vi</sup> and the United Nations Biodiversity Convention,<sup>vii</sup> call for more interdisciplinary collaboration to tackle emerging and zoonotic diseases as well as antimicrobial resistance, it is important that the EU ensures that **all the**

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**different agencies involved in emergency response** (European Medicines Agency, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the future Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA)) **have One-Health at their core**. Good coordination of activities and interdisciplinary collaboration are fundamental.

- Human emerging diseases often start in animals, **it is important to consider also zoonotic (cross-species) threats as cross-border threats**. Control of zoonotic diseases in animals, to avoid spreading to humans and potentially initiating a pandemic (e.g., some of the influenza viruses) is fundamental and **highlights the need for One-Health interdisciplinary collaboration in practice**. Undoubtedly the Covid-19 pandemic, likewise SARS and MERS, have demonstrated to us that the health of humans, animals and the environment are inextricably linked. Our planet becomes more populated, more interconnected with increasing global trade and is challenged by climate change. This leads to increasing contacts between wildlife and intermediate hosts, animals and humans, which enhances the possibility for outbreaks of zoonotic diseases. The majority (72%) of emerging diseases of humans are caused by zoonotic pathogens, with most originating in wildlife. This crisis revealed the need for a paradigm shift, including holistic consideration of our environment and the intersectoral collaboration between doctors, veterinarians and environmental experts using the One-Health approach. **Veterinarians, are often the first to notice outbreaks of a zoonotic disease**. Therefore, **the Agency should establish a robust system for information exchange among all relevant health professions with an important role in public health emergencies, preparedness and control, including veterinarians**.
- A true implementation of the One Health approach encompasses:
  - The inclusive use of all available knowledge and expertise of experts in the human, veterinary and environmental field, e.g., veterinarians can make an essential contribution to the management of the current and future pandemics (i.e., viral surveillance in animal reservoirs, epidemiological models, testing strategies and in research).

- Setting up proper surveillance systems and sharing of information, data and laboratory genomic analysis between veterinarians, researchers and healthcare professionals via integrated informative systems.
  - A communication plan that includes direct exchange between public health colleagues, governments, stakeholder organisations and the general public.
  - Research & Development (R&D) requirements for funding to promote and integrate veterinary and medical professional studies. While prevention of human health relies at large extent to prevention and control of zoonotic diseases in animals, so far, all important grants are available for research only in human healthcare (e.g., epidemiology, diagnostics, vaccines). It is imperative to ensure equal and adequate allocation of EU funds for veterinary research (e.g. epidemiology, vaccines or treatment for animals) to prevent disease in humans.
  - Intersectoral collaboration between healthcare, veterinary and environmental field integrated in daily practice, education and research starting in peace times.
- It goes without saying that One Health approach needs to be at core for all Agencies involved in preparedness and management of serious cross-border threats to health, European Union should **allocate the necessary funds and resources to each one of the involved Agencies** - one of them being the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control - to support the implementation of such an approach.
  - Interdisciplinary collaboration is a core principle of the One Health approach, ECDC should embrace such an approach within its daily management, for example, **ECDC advisory forum should encompass interdisciplinary expertise to ensure the true integration of One-Health in the Agency's activities.**

In view of the ongoing discussions on the Commission's proposal for an EU Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health and all the proposals linked to it - such as this one on establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention

and Control - we urge you to consider the following recommendations for amendments and introduce them in the final legal text.

Commission proposal	Suggested amendment
<p><b>Whereas</b></p>	<p>(new)</p> <p>As the health of humans, animals and the environment are inextricably linked and similar medicines and medical devices are used for humans and animals, it is crucial to take a 'One Health' approach. This is also paramount as we know that the majority (72%) of emerging diseases of humans are caused by zoonotic pathogens, with origin in animals, mostly wildlife.</p>
<p>(1) The Union is committed to protect and improve human health, in particular to combat the major cross-border health scourges, measures concerning monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health.</p>	<p>(1) The Union is committed to protect and improve human health, in particular to combat the major cross-border health scourges, measures concerning monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health.</p>
<p>(5) This Regulation accordingly expands the mission and tasks of the Centre to enhance the Centre's capacity to provide the required scientific expertise and to support actions which are relevant to the prevention, preparedness, response planning and combating serious cross-border threats to health in the Union</p> <p>...</p>	<p>(5) This Regulation accordingly expands the mission and tasks of the Centre to enhance the Centre's capacity to provide the required scientific expertise and to support actions which are relevant to the prevention, preparedness, response planning and combating serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health in the Union...</p>

<p>(7) To effectively support the work of the Centre and ensure the fulfilment of its mission, Member States should ... to notify the Centre of any serious cross-border threats to health, information on preparedness and response planning and health system capacity...</p>	<p>(7) To effectively support the work of the Centre and ensure the fulfilment of its mission, Member States should ... to notify the Centre of any serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health, information on preparedness and response planning and health system capacity...</p>
<p>(14) The Centre should enhance preparedness and response capabilities at national and Union level by providing scientific and technical expertise to the Member States and the Commission. In this context the Centre, in close collaboration with the Member States and the Commission,...</p>	<p>(14) The Centre should enhance preparedness and response capabilities at national and Union level by providing scientific and technical expertise to the Member States and the Commission <b>through a One-Health approach</b>. In this context the Centre, in close collaboration with the Member States and the Commission,</p>
<p>(15) Regulation ... enabling the notification at Union level of alerts related to serious cross-border threats to health which continues to be operated by the ECDC....</p>	<p>(15) Regulation ... enabling the notification at Union level of alerts related to serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health which continues to be operated by the ECDC....</p>
<p>(17) To assist responses to outbreaks, which may spread within or to the Union, the Centre is to develop a framework for the mobilisation the EU Health Task Force in accordance with Decision No 1313/2013/EU...</p>	<p>(17) To assist responses to outbreaks, which may spread within or to the Union, the Centre is to develop a <b>One-Health</b> framework for the mobilisation the EU Health Task Force in accordance with Decision No 1313/2013/EU...</p>
<p>(22) Since the objectives of this Regulation to expand the mission and tasks of the Centre in order to</p>	<p>(22) Since the objectives of this Regulation to expand the mission and tasks of the Centre in order to</p>

enhance the Centre's capacity to provide the required scientific expertise and to support actions which combat serious cross-border threats to health in the Union cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States...	enhance the Centre's capacity to provide the required scientific expertise <b>anchored to One-Health principles</b> and to support actions which combat serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health in the Union cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States...
<b>Article 2: Definitions</b>	(New) Include a <b>definition for One-Health</b>
<b>Article 2: Definitions</b>	(New) Include a <b>definition for interdisciplinary collaboration</b>
<b>Article 3: Missions and tasks of the Centre</b>  1. In order to enhance the capacity of the Union and the Member States to protect human health ... the mission of the Centre shall be to identify, assess and report on current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases and provide recommendations for response at Union and national levels, as well as at regional level, if necessary...	1. In order to enhance the capacity of the Union and the Member States to protect human health ... the mission of the Centre shall be to identify, assess and report on current and emerging threats to human health from communicable diseases, <b>by implementing a holistic One-Health and interdisciplinary approach,</b> and provide recommendations for response at Union and national levels, as well as at regional level, if necessary...
<b>Article 4: Obligations of the Member States</b>  (b) notify the Centre of any serious cross-border threats to health, as soon as detected, through the Early	(b) notify the Centre of any serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health, as soon as

Warning and Response System (EWRS),...	detected, through the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS),...
<p><b>Article 5: Operation of dedicated networks and networking activities</b></p> <p>3. The Centre shall support the work of the HSC, the Council and other Union structures for coordinating responses to serious cross-border threats to health within its mandate</p>	<p>3. The Centre shall support the work of the HSC, the Council and other Union structures for coordinating responses to serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health within its mandate</p>
<p><b>Article 5: Operation of dedicated networks and networking activities</b></p> <p>4. The Centre...</p> <p>(b) detect, monitor and report on serious cross-border threats to health in the case of a threat referred to in points ... including a threat to substances of human origin, such as blood, organs, tissues and cells potentially impacted by communicable diseases...;</p>	<p>b) detect, monitor and report on serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threats to health in the case of a threat referred to in points ... including a threat to substances of human <b>or animal</b> origin, such as blood, organs, tissues and cells potentially impacted by communicable diseases...;</p>
<p><b>Article 5: Operation of dedicated networks and networking activities</b></p> <p>5. Each Member State shall ... The national focal points shall form networks that strategically advise the Centre....</p>	<p>5. Each Member State shall ... The national focal points shall form networks <b>and One Health networks</b> that strategically advise the Centre....</p>

<p><b>Article 5a: Prevention of communicable diseases</b></p> <p>2. The Centre shall develop a framework for the prevention of communicable diseases and special issues, including vaccine preventable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, health education, health literacy and behaviour change.</p>	<p>2. The Centre shall develop a <b>One-Health</b> framework for the prevention of communicable diseases and special issues, including vaccine preventable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, health education, health literacy and behaviour change.</p>
<p><b>Article 5b: Preparedness and response planning</b></p> <p>(a) contribute to the development, regular review and updating of preparedness plans and blueprints of threat-specific preparedness plans for adoption by the HSC;</p> <p>(b) develop preparedness monitoring and evaluation frameworks and indicators for preparedness;</p>	<p>(a) contribute to the development, regular review and updating of <b>One-Health</b> preparedness plans and blueprints of threat-specific preparedness plans for adoption by the HSC;</p> <p>(b) develop preparedness monitoring and <b>One-Health</b> evaluation frameworks and indicators for preparedness;</p>
<p><b>Article 7</b> <b>Procedure for scientific opinions</b></p>	<p>(NEW)</p> <p><b>Integrate One-Health approach in the proposed scientific opinion(s)</b></p>
<p><b>Article 8a</b> <b>Risk assessment</b></p> <p>2. The risk assessment shall include general and targeted</p>	<p>2. The risk assessment shall include general and targeted recommendations for response <b>taking into consideration One-</b></p>



<p>recommendations for response as a basis for coordination in the HSC.</p>	<p><b>Health multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach</b> as a basis for coordination in the HSC.</p>
<p><b><i>'Article 8b</i></b> <b><i>Response coordination</i></b></p> <p>1. The Centre shall ... by providing recommendations for response measures for:</p> <p>(a) national responses to the serious cross-border threat to health;</p> <p>(b) adoption of guidance for the Member States for the prevention and control of a serious cross-border threat to health.</p>	<p>1. The Centre shall ... by providing recommendations for response measures for:</p> <p>(a) national responses to the serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threat to health;</p> <p>(b) adoption of guidance for the Member States for the prevention and control of a serious cross-border <b>and/or zoonotic</b> threat to health.</p>
<p><b><i>'Article 11a</i></b> <b><i>Support to international and field response</i></b></p> <p>1. The Centre shall establish capacity to mobilise and deploy the EU Health Task Force including the Centre's staff and experts from Member States and fellowship programmes, to assist local response to outbreaks of communicable diseases in Member States and in third countries.</p>	<p>1. The Centre shall establish capacity to mobilise and deploy the EU Health Task Force including the Centre's staff and experts from Member States and fellowship programmes, to assist local response to outbreaks of communicable <b>and/or zoonotic</b> diseases in Member States and in third countries.</p>
<p><b><i>Article 18: Advisory Forum</i></b></p> <p>(19) Article 18 is amended as follows:</p>	<p>(NEW)</p> <p>(19) Article 18 is amended as follows: <b>(...) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:</b></p>

	<p><b>1. The Advisory Forum shall support the Agency to integrate a holistic One-Health Approach. It shall be composed of members from technically competent bodies in the Member States which undertake tasks similar to those of the Centre, on the basis of one representative designated by each Member State recognised for his/her scientific competence, as well as three members without the right to vote nominated by the Commission and representing interested parties at European level, such as non-governmental organisations representing patients, professional bodies or academia. Representatives may be replaced by alternates, appointed at the same time.</b></p>
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**Note:** The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) represents the veterinary profession in Europe. FVE represents about 300 000 veterinarians from 39 countries through their national veterinary associations and Sections. One Health is a core priority of FVE ([FVE Strategy 2021-2025](#)). Additionally, FVE has been long working and promoting One Health for many years already, e.g.

- COVID-19 and One Health: can we do better?  
[https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/FEAM-FVE-WEBINAR-Summary-report\\_Final.pdf](https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/FEAM-FVE-WEBINAR-Summary-report_Final.pdf)
- EU Health Policy Platform Joint Statement on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)  
[https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-joint-statement\\_final.pdf](https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/antimicrobial-resistance-joint-statement_final.pdf)
- Natural disasters and “One –Health” Are we prepared?  
[https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/Conclusions\\_FINAL.pdf](https://fve.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/Conclusions_FINAL.pdf)

The above information only represents a small part of overall FVE One-Health initiatives.

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## References:

- <sup>i</sup> A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/antimicrobial\\_resistance/docs/amr\\_2017\\_action-plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/antimicrobial_resistance/docs/amr_2017_action-plan.pdf)
- <sup>ii</sup> Council conclusions on the next steps under a One Health approach to combat antimicrobial resistance  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/06/17/epsco-conclusions-antimicrobial-resistance/>
- <sup>iii</sup> World Health Organization (WHO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Taking a multisectoral, One Health approach: a tripartite guide to addressing zoonotic diseases in countries. Geneva: WHO; 2019:  
[https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media\\_Center/docs/EN\\_TripartiteZoonosesGuide\\_web\\_version.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/EN_TripartiteZoonosesGuide_web_version.pdf).
- <sup>iv</sup> World Health Organization (WHO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Taking a multisectoral, One Health approach: a tripartite guide to addressing zoonotic diseases in countries. Geneva: WHO; 2019:  
[https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media\\_Center/docs/EN\\_TripartiteZoonosesGuide\\_web\\_version.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/EN_TripartiteZoonosesGuide_web_version.pdf).
- <sup>v</sup> The World Bank: People, pathogens, and our planet. Volume 1: towards a One Health approach for controlling zoonotic diseases. Report no. 50833-GLB [Internet]. Washington, DC: World Bank; 2010:  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/214701468338937565/pdf/508330ESW0whit1410B01PUBLIC1PPP1Web.pdf> .
- <sup>vi</sup> Berthe FCJ, Bouley T, Karesh WB, et al. One Health: operational framework for strengthening human, animal, and environmental public health systems at their interface (English). Report no. 122980. Washington, DC: World Bank; 2018 Jan 1:  
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/961101524657708673/One-health-operational-framework-forstrengthening-human-animal-and-environmental-public-healthsystems-at-their-interface>
- <sup>vii</sup> The Berlin principles on one health – Bridging global health and conservation  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969720364494?via%3Dihub>