



ECDC Management Board

Minutes of the Thirty-sixth Meeting

Stockholm, 8-10 March 2016

*Adopted by the ECDC Management Board at its Thirty-seventh meeting,
14-15 June 2016*

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Summary of Proceedings – ECDC Management Board Meeting

The Thirty-sixth meeting of the ECDC Management Board (MB) convened in Stockholm, Sweden, during 8-10 March 2016. During the meeting, the Management Board:

- ❖ adopted the programme;
- ❖ adopted the minutes of the Thirty-fifth meeting of the Management Board with the proposed amendments;
- ❖ took note of the update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting;
- ❖ approved the proposal and endorsed the way forward with the ECDC Building Premises project;
- ❖ took note of the update and remarked upon the Draft Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation and the first Stakeholder Survey.
- ❖ approved the Collaboration Agreements with ASPHER and EUPHA;
- ❖ took note of the Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present, and postponed approval of the two additional activities until the June MB meeting, during which time more details will be provided by the Commission, including a distribution of work between EMA and ECDC. The MB asked ECDC to give in the future more detailed information (rationale, financial implications) concerning proposals for additional activities;
- ❖ approved the Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2015, including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2015;
- ❖ endorsed the IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2014-2016;
- ❖ approved the provisional Annual Accounts for 2015, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management;
- ❖ took note of the Fourth Supplementary and Amending Budget 2015;
- ❖ adopted the Revised Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee;
- ❖ approved the appointment of a new member for the ECDC Audit Committee;
- ❖ unanimously agreed to adopt the ECDC Independence Policy Revision;
- ❖ took note of the implementation of the ECDC draft Independence policy. The Board also noted that more information is needed concerning the exemption of the DoI from members of WHO and from the Commission on the exemption of the DoI from members of the EC and EU institutions when participating in expert groups. The Board agreed to discuss it further at the June MB meeting;
- ❖ took note of the Annual Report of the Compliance Officer to the Director on the implementation of ECDC's draft Independence Policy in 2015;
- ❖ took note of the absence of unanimity in regards to the proposal of the internal working language of the Centre. The Board agreed that vacancy notices will be published in all EU languages, specifying that English is the language used in the Centre's day-to-day operations. The Agency shall continue with its current practice. The Board also took note of the Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulation, which will be formally adopted via written procedure in 2016;
- ❖ took note of the TESSy Data Access Request 2015 Annual Report, with suggestions on how future reports should be improved;
- ❖ took note of the presentations from the Netherlands and the Slovak Republic EU Presidencies;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Commission.

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

1. The Chair of the ECDC Management Board welcomed all participants to the Thirty-sixth meeting of the Management Board. A special welcome was extended to Jean-Claude Schmit, newly appointed Member, Luxembourg, Elena Andradas Aragonés, newly appointed Alternate, Spain, and Michael Huebel, newly appointed Alternate, European Commission. Apologies had been received from Croatia, Czech Republic, Iceland, Italy and Portugal. Proxies were duly noted as follows: Croatia – proxy given to Slovenia, Czech Republic – proxy given to Slovak Republic, Italy – proxy given to Bulgaria and Portugal – proxy given to Estonia.
2. Further to attendance, the Board was informed that Line Matthiessen, Member, European Commission, DG RTD, would be joining the meeting on 10 March, proxy for 8-9 March was given to John F Ryan, Member, European Commission, DG SANTE. The Board was also informed that Mariella Borg Buontempo, Alternate, Malta, would be joining the MB meeting on 9 and 10 March (Proxy for 8 March was given to the Netherlands).
3. The following documentation was tabled: MB36/01 Rev.2 Draft Programme (Revised), including email correspondence from Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, pertaining to the MB35 draft minutes.

Welcome from the Acting Director, ECDC

4. Dr Andrea Ammon, Acting Director, ECDC, welcomed the Management Board members and noted that she was looking forward to having productive discussions during the meeting, including in particular discussions and decisions regarding the building project and the independence policy.

Adoption of the draft programme (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (*Document MB36/01 Rev.2*)

5. Prior to adopting the programme, the Chair asked each member whether s/he wished to add any oral declaration(s) of interest to her/his existing Annual Declaration of Interest (DoI) submitted previously. None were declared.

The Management Board adopted the programme.

Adoption of the draft minutes of the 35th meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 25-26 November 2015) (*Document MB36/02*)

6. The Board was introduced with the recently received comments regarding the minutes of the 35th MB meeting by Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France. It was requested to integrate the specific comments into the minutes accordingly. The Board also asked to receive the draft minutes within three weeks after the MB meeting.

The Management Board adopted the minutes of the Thirty-fifth meeting of the Management Board with the proposed amendments.

Update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting (Stockholm, 25-26 November 2015) (*Document MB36/03*)

7. Andrea Ammon, Acting Director, ECDC, provided the Board with an update on the main activities since the last MB meeting. The presentation referred to the work of the ECDC Management Board Working Group on Building Project and its progress to date. Amongst other items, the update touched upon implementation of adopted the Budget and Establishment Table 2016, the progress of ECDC Single Programming Document (SPD) 2017, the revised ECDC Independence Policy and internal rules on DoI and other activities. Reference was also made to the outcome of the main topics discussed at the last

Advisory Forum meeting (AF44), the main visits and meetings of the ECDC Acting Director in January and February 2016, including ECDC's publication of the rapid risk assessments.

8. A summary of the actions taken by ECDC in response to key decisions from the last MB meeting, including an overview of what had been discussed at the last AF meeting, was welcomed by the members and the condensed MB and AF Highlights of ECDC main activities, which are disseminated to members prior to the meeting, was appreciated.

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

Proposal on ECDC Building Premises Project (Document MB36/04, MB36/04 Rev.1 and MB36/04 Info Note 1)

9. Prior to addressing this very important topic, it was assured that no one present in this session has any interests / ties to Swedish construction companies. It was a closed session wherein members of the Management Board, ECDC Acting Director, Senior Management Team, Head of Section of Legal Services and Procurement, Head of Section, Corporate Services, Head of Section, Corporate Governance and the Building Project Manager were present.

10. The Acting Director, ECDC, introduced the item and its progress, noting the final ECDC Premises project's goal and explaining the current state of play of the project. The Board was requested to express its opinion and support to the Acting Director for the selection of the project for the next step of the procedure, i.e. sending the document to the Budgetary Authority. The Management Board has also been invited to endorse the content of the building questionnaire, which is to be submitted to the Budgetary Authority as part of the process.

11. The floor was given to the members of ECDC Management Board Working Group on Building Project who visited the premises. The members acknowledged a satisfactory process and good choice of the building. However, with regards to the location and premises, the representative of the European Parliament was concerned about the communication to employees about the new building, as well as obtaining more information about the availability of parking spots for employee's cars. She also inquired whether the office structure would have open spaces and/or private spaces. The representative of the European Commission and one member pointed out the importance of not to exceed the budget, while also keeping in mind the assurance of security and functionality in crisis situations. The representative of the European Commission also cautioned against giving any impression of luxury otherwise it would be perceived in a negative light.

12. The Acting Director, ECDC, assured that there is very good public transportation in the surrounding area of the new office. In respect to parking spots, there is a possibility for staff to rent such spaces. In respect to the office structure, it was affirmed that ECDC staff and the Staff Committee will be consulted and surveys will be performed before any decision is made. The budget limit and functionality during crises will be secured.

13. In reference to the next steps for the ECDC Building premises project, the Chair pointed out that specific attention should be considered with the way in which the project is presented to the European Parliament and the Council, and to ensure that the budget component is strong.

14. Taking into account the remarks expressed, the Board agreed to move forward with the current proposal and supported the project in terms of the next step of the procedure, i.e. sending the document to the Budgetary Authority.

The Management Board approved the proposal and endorsed the way forward with the ECDC Building Premises project.

Joint Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation and the first Stakeholder Survey (Document MB36/05)

15. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, presented an update on the Draft Joint Action Plan to address recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation and the first Stakeholder Survey. At the last MB meeting, it had been decided to make this a standing item on the MB agenda, and Mike

Catchpole recalled the 14 sets of actions in the Plan. He sought feedback from the Board in terms of the current activities being implemented.

16. During the ensuing discussions, several comments and questions were raised by the members. One question raised was related to Action Point 3 on getting closer to the countries, and on how ECDC can support countries and still allow for them to build their own capacity in the long term. Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit, Public Health Capacity and Communication, PHC, ECDC, assured the Board that the intention is not to replace any of the responsibilities of the countries, but to provide support with the added European value and cross border collaborations to ensure that capacities and capabilities are strengthened within the countries themselves. Mike Catchpole added that his (OCS) and Karl Ekdahl's (PHC) Units would look further into training and capacity building activities in the Member States (Action Point 2).

17. In response to a query whether the impact of ECDC's external communication actions (Action Point 1) had been evaluated, Karl Ekdahl informed that he would be pleased to discuss indicators and measures to assess their impact. Mike Catchpole also took note of the request for increased transparency between the actions of ECDC and other Agencies (Action Point 9 in the Plan). In regards to the reference link to MB recommendations, the representative of the European Commission suggested to include references to MB recommendations. In addition, in terms of the visibility of ECDC, it is vital to improve awareness of ECDC, namely by continuing to improve the annual report and the joint work plan with WHO, which will be published as soon as it is finalised. In respect to evaluation of the impact of communication, the importance of a communication strategy was noted, and discussions are welcome with the MB and the countries on measuring the impact of communication.

18. In respect to training of EPIET and EUPHEM, Member States could be involved in the preselection process of fellows. Karl Ekdahl relayed that the change of the selection process was triggered by the countries. In comparison to the previous process, which was quite complex and increased the burden for Member States, with minimal change in the outcome, the current selection of fellows is aimed at simplifying the process. Furthermore, it was recalled that during the second JSM, there were no objections against the implication of this new process. Still, if countries want to be involved in the selection process, adding an additional step, it could be reconsidered. In respect to the content of training modules, it was noted that it is competency-based and driven by priorities and needs of the countries

19. A final topic for discussion was related to developing a strategy for EU reference laboratories. Mike Catchpole informed the MB that discussions were currently being held between ECDC and the European Commission.

The Management Board took note of the update and remarked upon the Draft Action Plan to address Recommendations arising from the second External Evaluation and the first Stakeholder Survey.

Collaboration Agreements with ASPHER and EUPHA (*Documents MB36/06 and MB36/07*)

20. Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit, Public Health Capacity and Communication, PHC, ECDC, presented the collaboration agreements with ASPHER and EUPHA, mentioning in his introduction that contacts had been informal so far, and that the time had come to formalise these collaborations. He continued by informing that ECDC, together with ASPHER, intends to set up a network of schools of public health with a curriculum on infectious diseases and to work together with EUPHA on issues pertaining to scientific issues.

21. The European Commission supported the idea of closer formal collaboration between ECDC and ASPHER, and ECDC and EUPHA, but also stressed the importance of ECDC signalling that this is not a 'closed door collaboration', and that other organisations could be included in similar collaborations in the future. Some concern was also raised on how the agreement would impact on the ECDC National Focal Points for Training, and how to ensure collaboration and interaction with the public health schools that are not members of ASPHER.

22. The Chair suggested the Board approve the collaboration agreements with ASPHER and EUPHA, taking into consideration that ECDC should exercise caution with the budget and financial implications and to report back to the MB and reflect upon the added value of those collaborations and what kind of activities emanated from the MOUs. In addition, the Board requested to be periodically updated about the activities with the other Centers of Communicable Diseases, i.e. in China, in the United States.

The Management Board approved the Collaboration Agreements with ASPHER and EUPHA.

23. In addition to the meeting programme, a discussion took place on the complementarity between the roles of the Advisory Forum and the Management Board. Comments were raised regarding the responsibilities of these bodies and their relation to ECDC in accordance to the Founding Regulation of ECDC. The Dutch Member reiterated the importance of acknowledging the value added opinions of the Advisory Forum. The MB Chair also sought clarification in respect to the role of the Health Security Committee and the Coordinating Competent Bodies. In order to bring this issue forward, the MB endorsed a proposal by the Chair to set up a small MB Working Group on complementarity between the MB and the AF with the following members: Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, Marianne Donker, Member, the Netherlands, John F Ryan, Member, the European Commission, Jacques Scheres, Member, European Parliament, Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, and Corinne Skarstedt, Head of Section, Corporate Governance, ECDC. The MB Working Group will follow up this matter in the MB meeting in June.

Preparation for the selection of the Director of ECDC 2016-2021

24. Closed session.

Opening and welcome by the Chair

25. The Chair opened the meeting and thanked the ECDC Acting Director and her staff for the dinner during the previous evening. The Chair also took the opportunity to warmly welcome Dr Mårten Kivi, Deputy Director, Division for Public Health and Health Care, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (Sweden), who is intended to replace Anita Janelm, Alternate, Sweden. Dr Kivi was present during this day only in order to familiarise himself with the activities of the ECDC Management Board. The following documentation was tabled: MB36/17 Revised Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee.

Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present (*Document MB36/08*)

26. Philippe Harant, Head of Section, Quality Management Section, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, updated the Management Board on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 and on the progress of the different activities. He informed the MB about two activities proposed to be included in the Work Programme; one was regarding support to the EC on the monitoring of vaccine shortages and the second was to establish a collaborative platform to support the National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in the EU. When new activities are introduced, ECDC should provide the MB with an indication regarding the impact of the planned activities.

27. The MB discussed the two additional activities and raised some concern related to how they complement the mandate of other agencies, and how other tasks in the Work Programme would be reallocated. The MB took note of Document MB36/08 and postponed approval of the two additional activities until the June MB meeting during which time more details will be provided by the Commission, including a distribution of work between EMA and ECDC.

The Management Board took note of the Report on the implementation of the Work Programme 2016 up until present, and postponed approval of the two additional activities until the June MB meeting, during which time more details will be provided by the Commission, including a distribution of work between EMA and ECDC. The MB asked ECDC to give in the future more detailed information (rationale, financial implications) concerning proposals for additional activities.

Annual Report of the Director on the Center's Activities in 2015 (including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2015) (*Document MB36/09 Rev.1*)

28. Andrea Ammon presented the Director's Annual Report 2015, informing the MB about the main activities last year. It was emphasised that the format of the current document is based upon the agreed template for all agencies. However, she maintained that ECDC will continue to make the Annual Report as 'user-friendly' as possible by highlighting the Centre's main activities in a condensed way, and by using clear language to make it readable to a general audience. She informed that 87% of ECDC's planned activities have been implemented, which is above the established target (85%).

29. The Board welcomed the user-friendly format and language of the report, and noted that it had been well-received in the European Parliament during the Annual Hearing before the ENVI Committee. In regards to a query on developing targets for molecular surveillance, it was assured by Andrea Ammon that this would be considered and that she will revert in due course with progress to the Board. The members acknowledged that the document would be useful for communication at national level in regards to showcasing the agency's work and achievements.

The Management Board approved the Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2015, including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2015.

Summary of discussions held at the 31st meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (7 March 2016), including its recommendations:

30. Johan Carlson, Member, Sweden, and Chair of the ECDC Audit Committee (AC), briefly summarised the discussions and conclusions from the 31th AC meeting, which took place on 7 March 2016.

a) Update of IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2014-2016 (Document MB36/10)

31. Stefan Sundbom, Internal Control Coordinator, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, updated the Board on the IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2014-2016, informing that the Internal Audit Service (IAS) has now confirmed that the topic selected for the 2016 audit is on procurement and that the audit will take place at ECDC at the end of May.

The Management Board endorsed the IAS Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2014-2016.

b) Provisional Annual Accounts 2015, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management (Document MB36/11)

32. Anja van Brabant, Head of Section, Finance and Accounting, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented the provisional Annual Accounts for 2015, and informed the members about the conclusions from the discussions at the Audit Committee meeting. The Audit Committee had supported ECDC's plans for further improving the budget implementation and committed to following this closely in the future. The Committee had also requested clarification regarding Title 1. In the discussions that ensued, the Commission expressed concern over the budget overrun of five million Euros. Such an overrun could impact upon the 2017 budget, notwithstanding a 4% penalty. The Acting Director explained that this was due mainly to the decreased weighting factor, and to the fact that some high-level posts (such as the Director's post) had been vacant for the majority of 2015. She also identified issues with meeting organisation. The Commission representative requested that ECDC proactively communicate with DG SANTE in the future, which ECDC agreed to.

33. In respect to ECDC's intentions to put in place measures to improve the budget implementation for 2016, the Audit Committee recommended that the MB approve the Provisional Annual Accounts for 2015. Andrea Ammon reassured the Board that ECDC will improve its forecasting and planning of the budget and its implementation, and that a new tool would facilitate this process.

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

c) Fourth Supplementary and Amending Budget 2015 (Document MB36/12)

34. Anja van Brabant presented the Fourth Supplementary and Amending Budget 2015, which represents all transfers that have taken place in 2015, while noting that there were no budget transfers between the titles.

The Management Board took note of the Fourth Supplementary and Amending Budget 2015.

d) Revised Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee

35. Stefan Sundbom presented the revised mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee. Three clarifications have been proposed to the text of the version sent for written procedure, and the most noteworthy amendment was the clarification on the member representing internal audit expertise in the Audit Committee who is to be nominated freely by the Management Board as long as he is not an employee of the Internal Audit Service or ECDC.

The Management Board adopted the Revised Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee.

e) Replacement of Audit Committee Member

36. Due to the formal resignation of Robert Goerens, Member of the Management Board and also of the ECDC Audit Committee (Luxembourg), the replacement for the AC member was discussed and a new member appointed. Amalia Serban, Member, Romania, kindly agreed to join the ECDC Audit Committee.

The Management Board approved the appointment of a new member to the ECDC Audit Committee.

Update from ECDC Compliance Officer

a) ECDC Independence Policy revision (Document MB36/13)

37. Jan Mos, Compliance Officer, Director's Office, ECDC, updated the Management Board on the ECDC Independence Policy revision. This revision included two parts, namely, a policy and an internal procedure. The MB discussed the proposal indicating that it is balanced, yet the procedure on how to systematically identify and deal with conflicts of interest arising from declarations was not entirely clear. The issue pertaining to mitigation measures that cannot be implemented as proposed by ECDC has been notified. It was suggested that essential elements related to the independence policy should be decided by the Board and included in the core document. In regards to the Advisory Forum, any mitigating measures need to be sent to the Member States.

38. The Compliance Officer explained the procedure and assured the MB that although mitigation issues do not occur frequently, a Review Committee, chaired by the Chair of the MB, is in place for such cases. If any mitigation occurs in regards to the Advisory Forum, ECDC informs the country as they are nominated by the Member State. For external experts, ECDC can take a specific measure. In respect to the MB, ECDC has no authority to take mitigation measures. In regards to comment by the MB representatives from Germany that the Chair has no specific higher authority, it was noted that ECDC needs to come up with the Review Committee procedure in the policy following up the potential conflicts, discussions and the mitigation measures. It is a rare occasion, but it is possible to come up with a formulation that puts the responsibility for mitigation measures at the appropriate level. ECDC cannot take mitigation measures but just propose. It was suggested that ECDC could come up with the proposal how the MB can deal with reviewing conflicts of interest.

The Management Board unanimously agreed to adopt the ECDC Independence Policy Revision.

b) Implementation of the ECDC draft Independence Policy

39. Jan Mos updated the Board on the progress of the implementation of the ECDC draft independence policy, and informed that the submission rate can still be further improved by using the new electronic tool. Thereafter, the Chair reminded those members/alternates who had not already submitted their declarations of interest (DoI) to do so without further delay. In the event that some members state a conflict of interest, it was agreed that they will not participate in the discussions related to their interest.

40. Some discussions ensued as to why external experts from WHO, the Commission and other EU agencies are not required to complete declarations. The representative from the European Commission clarified that all officials of the EC are covered by staff regulations and are generally obliged to report proactively on any issue, which applies to all Commissioners and their subordinates. Under the EC rules, any conflict of interest must be declared in advance. Therefore, any official of the Commission who is working in the specific activity related to ECDC must consider this. If there is any issue, the Commission would take measures. The same applies to the EU agencies. The representative from the European Commission will provide more information to the Board on how it works in practice. Everyone who submits a DoI is obliged to update it if there are any changes. Further to the discussion, it was confirmed that DoIs should be updated in terms of particular issues, for example, if a person is involved in the work of ECDC. The revised and updated DoI should be forwarded to the Centre for review and consideration.

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

The Management Board also noted that more information is needed concerning the exemption of the DoI from members of WHO and from the Commission on the exemption of the DoI from members of the EC and EU institutions when participating in expert groups. The Management Board agreed to discuss it further at the June MB meeting.

c) Annual Report of the Compliance Officer to the Director on the implementation of ECDC's draft Independence Policy in 2015 (Document MB36/14)

41. The Compliance Officer updated the Board with his Annual Report to the Director on the implementation of ECDC's draft Independence Policy in 2015. The report presents actions taken and results achieved to implement the Centre's draft independence policy, giving an assessment of the level of compliance achieved, analysing the most common challenges encountered and indicating areas where compliance should be improved further.

The Management Board took note of the Annual Report of the Compliance Officer to the Director on the implementation of ECDC's draft Independence Policy in 2015.

Preparation for the election of the Director of ECDC 2016-2021 (Document MB36/Info Note 2 CONF)

42. Following the closed session on 8 March, the Chair proposed to convene a brief closed session for the members of the Board only in order to agree upon the detailed procedure for the election of ECDC Director (2016-2021).

Proposal for internal working language of the Centre (Document MB36/15)

43. Andrea Iber presented a proposal for a decision on the internal working language for ECDC as there are currently no formal rules governing the languages of the Centre. She explained that the Management Board needs to unanimously decide upon these rules according to the Founding Regulation. It was suggested that the language for ECDC's day-to-day operations is English. While the MB recognised the need for unanimity, this was not possible as two members objected. Noting the dissent, Susanne Wald, Member, Germany, stressed the possible risk in regards to the recruitment of candidates, i.e. a candidate could complain against the Centre for not being able to speak in his/her language during the recruitment procedure. The German Member also mentioned the importance of continuing work, otherwise there may be an increased risk of no decisions being taken. Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, pointed out the need for a harmonised decision. The members suggested looking into decisions different EU agencies have taken, taking into consideration specific aspects, i.e. location, functionality, wherein the legal services of the EC could be involved.

44. In conclusion, the Board acknowledged the absence of unanimity, while in the meantime, ECDC should continue working the same way in its day-to-day operations. Vacancies for new posts will be translated to all EU languages. ECDC's Acting Director and the Commission will investigate further a common approach of different EU agencies at the EU level, and update the Board accordingly in the June MB meeting, including the risks, consequences and possibilities.

45. Following the discussion, as a supplementary item, Andrea Ammon updated the Board with the upcoming Implementing Rules to the Staff Regulations, noting that the Implementing Rules on the list presented will be sent to the MB for adoption during 2016. In connection with this, Jessica Mannheim, Head of Section, Human Resources, RMC, ECDC, specified that the Implementing Rules pertaining to reclassification and working time have already been consulted with the dedicated MB Audit Committee Sub-group, including the ECDC Staff Committee, and will be put forward shortly for adoption via written procedure.

The Management Board took note of the absence of unanimity in regards to the proposal of the internal working language of the Centre. The Management Board agreed that vacancy notices will be published in all EU languages, specifying that English is the language used in the Centre's day-to-day operations. The Agency shall continue with its current practice.

The Management Board also took note of the list of Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulation, which will be formally adopted via written procedure in 2016.

TESSy Data Access Request 2015 Annual Report (*Document MB36/16*)

46. The annual report of TESSy Data Access Request 2015 was presented by Gaetan Guyodo, Expert Data Management / Group Leader Data Management, SRS, ECDC. He informed that 84 requests were received from external researchers in 2015, including the types of such requests.

47. The Management Board discussed the origin of the requests, the cost and time involved in addressing them. In respect to the inquiry regarding requests from pharmaceutical companies, Gaetan Guyodo replied that ECDC generally does not refuse any request. Yet one request was mentioned that concerned sensitive data, for which agreement of the Member State was requested. For this request, most of the Member States did not agree to share their data; therefore, their data were not shared. Regarding requests from industry, it was clarified that they are only for research purposes. The data was shared both with the private and public sectors. Upon expiry, the data is destroyed by the requester. All publications that use the data should be shared with ECDC. There is no differentiation between public and private requests in the TESSy Data Access Report.

48. The Member State's comments will be taken into consideration for managing future TESSy requests.

The Management Board took note of the TESSy Data Access Request 2015 Annual Report, with suggestions how future reports should be improved.

Update from the EU Presidencies

a) Update from the Netherlands

49. Marianne Donker, Member, the Netherlands, informed about the work of the current EU Presidency and presented the main conclusions from the Ministerial Conference on AMR in Amsterdam on 10 February 2016. She informed that the conference had been a great success and that there had been broad support for the EU 'One Health' approach, which embraces human and animal health. One outcome includes a recommendation that the EU needs to take a leading role in the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR worldwide. A further process had been introduced, including a discussion at political level via an informal meeting of ministers of health and possibly adoption of Council conclusions in a formal Council meeting.

b) Update from Slovak Republic

50. Ján Mikas, Member, Slovak Republic, presented a short film and gave some key facts regarding how his country will host the upcoming EU presidency during the second half of 2016. Regarding communicable diseases, the Slovak EU Presidency will follow up with the work on TB and AMR from the Latvian EU Presidency. Ján Mikas promised to give the Board more detailed information at the next MB meeting in June.

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

Update from the European Commission

a) State of play of implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU

51. Martin Seychell, MB Member, DG SANTE, European Commission, gave the state of play of the implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU on cross-border threats to health, recalling three main points which facilitated the implementation of the decision. The first report on the implementation of the decision was adopted on 7 December 2013, which was highly useful, that served as a background document for the discussion on the lessons learned from the Ebola and the Health Council in December that led to the adoption of the Council conclusions and as an input for the process. Second, that inter-service consultations on the draft Commission implementing decision on coordination, exchange of information and communication and on the draft Commission implementing decision of the EWRS completed and received comments consolidated into a single implementing act which will be submitted to the Comitology Committee for opinion. At the moment the adoption of the legal act is planned for the second quarter of this year. Third, the list of communicable diseases will be updated with Lyme disease, Chikungunya, and West Nile Fever, inclusive of adopted case definitions. In regards to an inquiry regarding the connection between the case definition and implementing acts, it was clarified that the list of communicable diseases and conditions are established in the implementing acts. Regarding the inclusion of the Zika virus cases in the list of communicable diseases, it was assured that the work is currently under way together with ECDC, noting a project on rare diseases programme as registry of congenital abnormalities and discussions with the Joint Research Center and ECDC on how to mobilise a registry on congenital malformations as a supplementary surveillance to any surveillance under the virus itself.

b) Joint Procurement Agreement

52. John F Ryan, MB Member, DG SANTE, European Commission, updated the members on the progress and informed them that he expects up to 25 Member States to have signed by the summer. He also informed about a call for tender for protective equipment for healthcare workers and a tender process for pandemic vaccines are ongoing. In terms of other procurement procedures, he has convened discussions with the Steering Committee for Joint Procurement in possible areas of BCG vaccine, antitoxins against diphtheria and botulism, and hepatitis C treatment.

c) Update on AMR activities

53. John F Ryan updated the Board on activities concerning antimicrobial resistance (AMR), under the current EU Presidency (the Netherlands). The Commission endeavours to make the EU a best practice region for AMR and encouraged joint initiatives to support this work. Among the significant activities, preparation of EU guidance together with ECDC was mentioned. In terms of the existing action plan, several activities include surveillance, prevention of infection, including a joint inter-agency report in 2017 on AMR, developed together with different EU agencies. An additional element to strengthen research and innovation is TATFAR, with the latest development of extension to include Canada and Norway (apart from the USA). The evaluation of the EU action plan will be published in April 2016, supplemented by the vision, which is foreseen to be presented in the second half of 2016.

54. In terms of recommendations of national action plans proposed to countries, the one EU approach was encouraged, taking into account both developing a plan and integrating economic elements. Regarding linkages between AMR action plans and access to healthcare in Europe, John F Ryan assured that patient safety and AMR is closely intertwined, while taking into account positive and negative examples of specific issues in the Member States. With respect to a query whether the Commission is willing to help with additional funding for challenged countries or simply with surveys and guidelines, it was clarified that there is no possibility for supplementary funding, but it is foreseen that existing funds will be targeted towards the most needy countries. John F Ryan concluded that ECDC's efforts in the area are well-recognised both within the EU and internationally.

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

Any other business

55. Andrea Ammon thanked the Management Board for their substantive support and enriching contributions in terms of the consequential agenda items, such as the ECDC new building project and the independence policy. She took the opportunity to inform the Board that ECDC has downgraded the PHE level to level 0, but that the Centre will continue to monitor the situation closely and continue its work on Zika related activities.

56. The Chair of the Management Board expressed his sincere thanks to the Board for their active contributions to important matters for decision. He thanked the interpreters for their professional support and also the Corporate Governance Team and ECDC staff for their solid preparatory work which facilitated the work of the Management Board.

57. The next Management Board meeting will take place in Stockholm during 14-15 June 2016. The meeting was adjourned.

Election of the Director of ECDC (2016-2021)

58. Closed session.

Annex 1. List of participants

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
Austria	Pamela Rendi-Wagner	Member
Belgium	Daniel Reynders (<i>Chair</i>)	Member
	Loïc Ledent	Alternate
Bulgaria	Angel Kunchev	Member
Cyprus	Irene Cotter	Alternate
Denmark	Lisbeth Høeg-Jensen	Member
Estonia	Tiiu Aro (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Member
Finland	Taneli Puumalainen	Alternate
France	Anne-Catherine Viso	Alternate
Germany	Susanne Wald	Member
	Gesa Lücking	Alternate
Greece	Maria Pirounaki	Alternate
Hungary	Hanna Páva	Member
	Beatrix Oroszi	Alternate
Ireland	Colette Bonner	Member
Latvia	Dzintars Mozgis	Alternate
Lithuania	Audrius Ščeponavičius	Member
Luxembourg	Jean-Claude Schmit	Member
Malta	Mariella Borg Buontempo	Alternate
Netherlands	Marianne Donker	Member
Poland	Pawel Gorynski	Member
Romania	Amalia Serban	Member
Slovak Republic	Ján Mikas	Member
Slovenia	Mojca Gobec	Member
Spain	Elena Andradas Aragonés	Alternate
Sweden	Johan Carlson	Member

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
	Anita Janelm	Alternate
	Mårten Kivi	Observer
United Kingdom	Helen Shirley-Quirk	Member
	Alisa Wight	Alternate
European Parliament		
	Minerva-Melpomeni Malliori	Member
	Jacques Scheres	Member
European Commission		
DG SANTE	Martin Seychell	Member
DG SANTE	John F Ryan	Member
DG RTD	Line Matthiessen	Member
EEA Countries		
Norway	Karl-Olaf Wathne	Member