

Lunch meeting in the European Parliament
3 October 2007 from 12:45 to 14:30
ASP Building Room 1E3

Programme

Pandemic preparedness: Importance of seasonal influenza vaccination in Europe

Introduction by *MEP/Prof Antonios Trakatellis*

WHO Speaker: *Dr David Heymann, Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases*

An influenza pandemic is a certainty. The real question is when.

- Epidemiological update (global + European focus)
- The WHA Assembly Resolution of May 2003 urges member States to establish and implement strategies to increase vaccination coverage of all people at high risk, including the elderly and persons with underlying diseases, with the goal of attaining vaccination coverage of the elderly population of at least 50% by 2006 and 75% by 2010

Presentation of the results of an influenza vaccine coverage survey in 11 EU countries *: *Prof Thomas Szucs, Zurich University*

- Current key influenza vaccine coverage rates to be presented in relationship to WHO target and identify the incentives to get vaccinated

ECDC representative: *Prof Angus Nicoll, ECDC Senior Expert – Influenza Coordination*

- The ECDC Technical report on influenza pandemic preparedness in the EU stresses the need to adopt EU-wide seasonal influenza vaccine coverage standards based on the WHA goals for immunisation in target groups, as well as regular monitoring of effectiveness of the vaccine

EVM Speaker: *Dr Luc Hessel, chair of the EVM Influenza Pandemic Working Group*

- EVM contribution to pandemic preparedness
- Focus on R&D efforts & production capacity expansion

Conclusions by *MEP/Prof Antonios Trakatellis*

* Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, UK