



Dear Active citizenship Network,

AMR is a key cross-border health issue for Europe and the world. This silently growing pandemic is already affecting our health today and will increasingly do so in the future. Without effective action, AMR will take us back to a pre-antibiotic age when death by infection was much more common.

Each year, already more than 700,000 people die globally as a consequence of drug-resistant bacteria. The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the weaknesses of our healthcare systems, revealed underlying inequalities and reminded the world of the serious threat that emerging infectious diseases can pose to human health and our economies.

The awareness of the relationship between the use of antimicrobials and the development and spread of AMR is still very low. Among other things, we need to stop the misuse and over use of antibiotics. We need better information campaigns so the public is aware that antibiotics are not a cure it all drug. In addition, we need to offer alternative treatments and stewardships for healthcare professionals and monitoring and surveillance need to be strengthened as well as infection prevention and control. A focus needs to also be put on better access to rapid and affordable diagnostic tools.

AMR-related challenges will only increase in the years ahead and effective action is reliant on continued, cross-sectoral investments in public and private research and innovation so that better tools, products and devices, as well as new treatments and alternative approaches can be developed. In addition, the current antibiotic innovation pipeline is broken. Which is why, we need to support the development of needs-driven models to fix the antibiotic development pipeline next to ensuring both prudent use of new drugs, as well as equitable and affordable access for patients. We will need to look into delinking the price and volume of antibiotic sales from research and innovation costs through alternative mechanisms like for example subscriptions models or transferable exclusivity vouchers.

AMR is a key area where European citizens rightly expect firm European action, as it cannot be tackled efficiently at national level. The Commissions pharmaceutical stagey will play a key role in combating AMR in the years to come. I am looking forward on working on this to finally make a change and fight AMR.

**Tiemo Wölken**, S&D-MEP, Vice-Chair MEP Interest Group on AMR