

Council conclusions on patient safety and quality of care, including the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance

(2014/C 438/05)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. RECALLS that under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities, that Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, that the Union shall encourage cooperation between the Member States in the field of public health and, if necessary, lend support to their action, and fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care;
2. RECALLS the Council conclusions on common values and principles in European Union Health Systems adopted on 2 June 2006 ⁽¹⁾, and particularly the overarching values of universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity;
3. RECALLS that the Annual Growth Survey 2014 highlights the need for the development of active inclusion strategies that include broad access to affordable and high-quality health services, also with regard to achieving the objectives of Europe 2020;
4. RECALLS the Council Recommendation 2009/C 151/01 of 9 June 2009 on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections ⁽²⁾;
5. RECALLS the Council Recommendation 2002/77/EC of 15 November 2001 on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in human medicine ⁽³⁾ and the Commission Action plan against the rising threat from antimicrobial resistance ⁽⁴⁾;
6. RECALLS the Council conclusions of 22 June 2012 on the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector and in the veterinary sector — a ‘One Health’ perspective ⁽⁵⁾;
7. RECALLS that antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections are subject to epidemiological surveillance in accordance with Article 2.1(a)(ii) and Article 2.2 of Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC ⁽⁶⁾;
8. RECALLS World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.25 on Antimicrobial Resistance adopted on 24 May 2014;
9. RECALLS that Recommendation 2009/C 151/01 and Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare ⁽⁷⁾ request that patients receive healthcare in accordance with safety and quality standards and guidelines and clarify the right to receive information, in a clear and transparent way, as regards safety and quality measures in place and complaints procedures and redress mechanisms;
10. NOTES that policymaking and decision-making processes should be evidence-based, and supported by systematic data collection that uses appropriate health information and communication technology (ICT) tools;
11. NOTES that the current trend of shifting care from hospitals to outpatient care, including primary care and home care, can result in an increased amount of care provided by non-hospital healthcare workers, social workers and carers, including informal caregivers;
12. RECOGNISES that education and training on patient safety and infection prevention and control should be embedded in training for health professionals and carers and be included in continuous professional development;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 146, 22.6.2006, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 151, 3.7.2009, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 34, 5.2.2002, p. 13.

⁽⁴⁾ 16939/11 (COM(2011) 748).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 211, 18.7.2012, p. 2.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 293, 5.11.2013, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p. 45.