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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council session on 14 June 2019**

Outcome of the informal meeting of Health Ministers (Bucharest, 14-15 April 2019) and of other meetings organised by the Romanian Presidency

- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Presidency on the outcome of the informal meeting of Health Ministers and of other meetings organised by the Romanian Presidency. This note has been prepared to provide information under "Any Other Business" at the session of the Council (EPSCO) on 14 June 2019.

**Outcome of the informal meeting of Health Ministers
(Bucharest, 14-15 April 2019)
and of
Other meetings organised by the Romanian Presidency**

I. Informal meeting of Health Ministers

On **14 and 15 April 2019** the Informal Meeting of Health Ministers took place in Bucharest. In a first session, an exchange of views on patients' access to innovative and expensive medicines and treatments took place. During a working lunch, the Presidency provided information on Romanian experience in the fight against hepatitis. A second exchange of views had "Information on the implementation of Directive 24/2011/EU on cross-border healthcare - patient mobility" as theme.

II. AMR Ministerial Conference

On **28 February and 1 March 2019** a Ministerial Conference on antimicrobial resistance took place in Bucharest. The outcome of this conference was used as a basis for the preparation of Council conclusions on the next steps towards making the EU a best practice region in combatting antimicrobial resistance. These conclusions¹ are intended for adoption by the Council (EPSCO) on 14 June.

¹ 9765/19.

III. Meeting of Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nurse Officers and Chief Dentist Officers

On **21 and 22 March 2019** the Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nurse Officers and Chief Dentist Officers from the EU Member States met in Bucharest to discuss issues related to health and wellbeing for an ageing population. Three main topics were:

- patients' safety and quality of care and control of healthcare-associated infections, combating antimicrobial resistance,
- exploiting innovation and e-Health as part of care, and
- enhancing cooperation regarding healthcare, in particular the health workforce issues and the medical profession approach, to support the health of the population in the European Region.

IV. Workshop: improvement of vaccination programs and how to increase coverage in the EU in the context of public health threats

On **9 and 10 May 2019** a workshop called "Vaccination: from public health achievements to challenges and obstacles" was organised at the University of medicine in Cluj Napoca. The workshop gathered experts, coordinators of national vaccination programmes and State secretaries from the EU Member States and from Member States of the South-Eastern Europe Health Network, representatives of the European Centre for disease prevention and control (ECDC), the European office of the World Health Organization (WHO-Europe) and UNICEF. Issues covered included:

- a common approach to vaccination policies, for EU and candidate countries;
- common obstacles to ensuring optimal vaccination coverage;
- the danger of re-emergence of preventable diseases;
- the situation of unvaccinated people; and
- a European Vaccine Registry.

V. Oncology seminar on early detection and cancer screening

On **4 June 2019**, the Health Ministry organized a Symposium on Cancer Control: Primary Prevention and Screening, Reporting and Monitoring, key elements of the National Plan for Cancer Control.

The event took place at the National Library in the context of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and was chaired by the Romanian Health Minister. The debate was attended by experts in the field of combating and controlling cancer in the EU Member States. Main themes of interest covered were: European policies and actions to combat and control cancer; progress in combating and controlling cancer at European level; Romania's participation in European actions; presenting national policies and programs in the field of cancer prevention and control; reflections on the creation of a European cancer prevention alliance.

VI. e-Health Week

On **11, 12 and 13 June 2019**, the e-Health Week will be held in Bucharest. Arrangements will include:

- the High Level Conference on e-Health (on 12 June);
- the Digital Assembly with dedicated panels on e-Health (on 13 and 14 June); and
- the 14th meeting of the EU Member States Health Network (on 11 and 12 June).

An exhibition of information technology for digital solutions and innovative technologies in the medical field will be organised on the premises. Topics covered will include data security, interoperability challenges, the EU Common Semantic strategy in e-Health, models and best practices in the use of technological innovation for the transformation of health systems will be presented and debated.
