



ECDC Management Board

Minutes of the Sixty-fourth Meeting

Stockholm, 17-18 June 2025

Adopted by the ECDC Management Board at its Sixty-fifth meeting, 25-26 November 2025

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Summary of Proceedings and action points – ECDC Management Board Meeting

The Sixty-fourth meeting of the ECDC Management Board (MB) convened on 17-18 June 2025 in Stockholm, Sweden. During the meeting, the MB:

- ❖ adopted the programme of the meeting;
- ❖ adopted the minutes of the Sixty-third meeting of the MB;
- ❖ approved the Final Annual Accounts 2024;
- ❖ approved the Memorandum of Understanding between ECDC and Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control;
- ❖ approved the proposed MB meeting dates for 2026 and provisionally for 2027;
- ❖ appointed Martin Sojka, MB Member, Slovakia, and Quique Bassat, MB Member, European Parliament, as members of the ECDC Audit Committee (AC);
- ❖ discussed the priorities for the Single Programming Document 2027 and long-term future priorities in a tour de table session;
- ❖ took note of the update of the ECDC Director;
- ❖ took note of the update on the new ECDC organisational structure;
- ❖ took note of the issues on the ECDC work from the geopolitical situation;
- ❖ took note of the key findings from the ECDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPA), including a presentation from Iceland;
- ❖ took note of the summary of discussions held at the 58th AC meeting;
- ❖ took note of the monitoring of the implementation of the Work Programme 2025;
- ❖ took note of the Progress report – Overview of 2025 budget implementation;
- ❖ took note of the Budget transfers – first quarter 2025;
- ❖ took note of the reporting back from the MB working group on revision of the MB Rules of Procedure and AC Mandate;
- ❖ took note of the state of play of the designation of EU reference laboratories (EURLs) by the European Commission and the operation and coordination of the network of EURLs by ECDC, including discussions on an EURL for biotoxins;
- ❖ took note of the update on Vector-Borne Diseases: Current Status, Collaborations, and Surveillance Outputs;
- ❖ took note of the update on Inter-Agency Collaboration in the Cross-Agency One Health Taskforce: Implementing the Framework for Action;
- ❖ took note of the presentation on the surveillance paradigm shift: new ambitions and tools to address current hurdles and tackle infectious disease threats;
- ❖ took note of the update on the 20th ECDC Anniversary Event and the 4th Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM). A discussion paper will be prepared by ECDC and shared with the participants ahead of the JSM;
- ❖ took note of the update on the ESCAIDE conference;
- ❖ took note of information provided on Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Commission including on the External Evaluation of ECDC;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Parliament;
- ❖ took note of the update on the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU;
- ❖ took note of the update on the upcoming Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

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

1. Gesa Lücking, Chair of the ECDC Management Board (MB), welcomed all the participants to the Sixty-fourth meeting of the MB, which took place in Stockholm, Sweden. A special welcome was extended to Naima Hammami, newly appointed alternate, Belgium, Vana Papaevangelou, newly appointed alternate, Greece, and Antonio Parenti, alternate, DG SANTE, European Commission, who was participating for the first time.
2. Apologies had been received from Croatia (proxy to Slovenia), Liechtenstein, and DG RTD, European Commission. Italy and Romania did not confirm attendance.

Welcome from the Director, ECDC

3. Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Director, ECDC, warmly welcomed the MB members to the meeting noting that the agenda of the meeting was future oriented and she was looking forward to receiving input from the MB members on their expectations on ECDC's work in the upcoming years. She also informed the MB that a shorter version of the Centre's Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) was available on the ECDC website.

Adoption of the draft programme (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (*Document MB64/01*)

4. The draft programme was adopted without changes. The Chair noted that due to a potential conflict of interest, Vana Papaevangelou, MB alternate, Greece, would refrain from participating in the discussions related to the agenda item "Priorities for the SPD 2027 and tour de table on long term future priorities". No further conflicts of interest were declared.

The Management Board adopted the draft programme.

Adoption of the draft minutes of the Sixty-third meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 27-28 March 2025) (*Document MB64/02*)

5. The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the 63rd meeting had been circulated to the MB ahead of the meeting. Minor amendments had been suggested by the member from DG RTD, European Commission (point 56). No further changes were requested, and the minutes were adopted.

The Management Board adopted the minutes of the Sixty-third meeting of the Management Board.

Update from the Director

6. Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Director, ECDC, gave an update on recent ECDC activities. She mentioned that ECDC was closely following the geopolitical developments. The shifting security landscape calls on ECDC and its partners to find the most effective ways to invest in health security. This topic had also been discussed at the ESCMID conference in April, where the Director had highlighted the importance of preparedness as the backbone of health security and the need for a multisectoral response to future health threats. In May, the Director had held her first official Annual Exchange of Views with the European Parliament's SANT Committee.
7. The update also referred to the work of the EU Health Task Force (EUHTF) and ECDC's international activities. She also gave a brief update on the epidemiological situation noting that ECDC was closely monitoring the recent developments concerning COVID-19, chikungunya in Outermost Regions, hepatitis A and diphtheria.

8. The Director also mentioned that ECDC will hold its 20-year anniversary event on 4 November 2025; the agenda will be shared with the MB members and other participants as soon as available. Lastly, she noted that she had now served one year as ECDC Director, and she thanked the MB for their support and the constructive two-way exchange.

9. In the discussion that followed, the MB members congratulated the Director for her first year in office. The need to link health security to the broader security discussions was raised. In this context, the Director mentioned that several Member States had expressed interest in the creation of a European Reference Laboratory (EURL) on biotoxins and this topic would be discussed later during the day as part of the update on EURLs. Several members asked how the foreseen resource cuts in WHO are going to impact ECDC's work. The member representing DG SANTE replied that there were activities where ECDC could possibly take over and become the single point of data collection for the EU/EEA. The negotiations with WHO were however still ongoing and the impact of the de-prioritisations was part of these discussions. Responding to a question on the WHO Pandemic Agreement, the Director clarified that it had been adopted by the 78th World Health Assembly but the negotiations to develop an Annex to the Pandemic Agreement on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) will continue.

The Management Board took note of the update from the Director.

Update on the new ECDC organisational structure

10. Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Director, ECDC, recalled that ECDC's amended mandate entered into force in 2022 but no changes in the organisational structure had taken place since then. The COVID-19 pandemic was a turning point for ECDC resulting in new financial and staff resources and new tools put in place such as the PHEPA and EUHTF. The amended mandate also expects ECDC to provide proactive in-depth scientific advice, which requires more disease specific work. In the new organisational structure put in place on 1 June 2025, two new disease units have replaced the previous Disease Programmes Unit: one on "One Health related diseases" (OHD) and one on "Directly transmitted and Vaccine-preventable Diseases" (DVD). Smaller adjustments have also been made to the other two operational units. The Director presented the new organigramme and invited the Heads of OHD and DVD to briefly present themselves and their units.

11. Bruno Ciancio, Head of Unit, Directly transmitted and Vaccine-preventable Diseases, ECDC, mentioned that his unit will have a clear focus on prevention including access to vaccination and hard-to-reach populations. He also stressed the need to strengthen surveillance and exploiting new technical tools. The main strategy will be to work closer to the countries to build the evidence base and achieve better feasibility of actions.

12. Ole Heuer, Head of Unit, One Health related diseases, ECDC, stressed the importance of making better use of data. In the new structure, modellers and biostatisticians have been decentralised and integrated into the disease units which will help refine ECDC's outputs. The aim is also to develop the capacity in health economics going forward.

13. In the discussion that followed, ECDC clarified that the order of the sections in the organigramme was purely alphabetical. Referring to the Science and Public Health Communication Section in his unit, Piotr Kramarz, Chief Scientist and Head of Unit, Scientific Evidence and Communication, ECDC, noted that strong communication is needed for ECDC's public health messages to be effective and to tackle mis- and disinformation. ECDC is currently redefining its scientific outputs to make sure these are tailored to different target audiences. Insights from behavioural and social sciences are also increasingly taken into account, for instance to better understand the main drivers for vaccine uptake and acceptance. He offered to provide additional information on this topic at a future MB meeting, if needed.

14. The Chair thanked the Director for the update and suggested including a discussion on public health communication at the next meeting in November or the following one in March 2026.

The Management Board took note of the update on the new ECDC organisational structure.

Update on issues on the ECDC work from the geopolitical situation

15. Antonis Lanaras, Head of Section, Governance and International Relations, ECDC, briefed the MB about the latest developments as concerns interactions with the US CDC. He mentioned that there had been interactions related to epidemiological data exchange and epidemic intelligence and some positive developments in the area of HIV. No meetings of the Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR) had taken place since January 2025, but working groups meetings are planned for the autumn.

16. The Chair concluded that some positive developments could be observed while challenges remained in the area of food- and waterborne and zoonotic diseases as well as AMR and VPD. One MB member raised concern about the situation and suggested that the matter should be discussed at EU level, possibly in the Health Security Committee (HSC). The MB member representing DG SANTE replied that he did not see any major risks at present but agreed that the situation needed to be closely monitored.

17. The MB member representing the European Parliament mentioned a recent study conducted by the ISGlobal Institute showing that dissolving USAID could lead to an additional 14 million deaths by 2030. He suggested sharing the pre-print of the analysis with the MB members through the MB secretariat.

The Management Board took note of the update on issues on the ECDC work from the geopolitical situation.

Key findings from the ECDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPA), including a presentation from Iceland

18. Thomas Hofmann, Head of Section Emergency Preparedness and Response, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Unit, ECDC, updated the MB about the key findings from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPA). 12 PHEPA missions have been implemented since May 2024 and seven are planned for Q2-Q4 2025. ECDC is now developing ways to analyse and present the results of the PHEPAs in an aggregated format respecting the confidentiality requirements of the individual country reports. As a first step, ECDC organised a workshop on preliminary findings from PHEPAs in Luxembourg on 12 and 13 May.

19. Thomas Hofmann then presented the main general findings as well as the main strengths and areas of improvement identified from 11 completed PHEPA reports. He noted that there was some potential bias in the results given the geographical distribution of the countries assessed so far. He then presented an overview of the main recommendations and the timeline for the country action plans.

20. In the discussion that followed, several members stressed the heavy workload associated with the assessments both for ECDC and the Member States, and it was pointed out that repeating the same exercise in three years' time was not sustainable. Thomas Hofmann agreed that there was a need to adjust the next cycle of assessments and after the summer break ECDC will start working on a new concept for the second phase to keep it sustainable. ECDC is also discussing internally how to best analyse and make use of the action plans, for instance by creating a community of practice for countries to exchange and learn from each other.

21. The Chair encouraged the MB members to liaise with the HSC member in their respective country and take part in any future workshops on PHEPA where possible. Arranging an online session for MB members could also be considered.

22. Guðlín Steinsdóttir, MB Alternate, Iceland, then gave a brief presentation on the PHEPA mission to Iceland which took place on 2-6 June. At national level, the assessment was coordinated by the Chief Epidemiologist office and preparations had started in January 2025. An operational site visit took place at the national reference laboratory which proved to be very valuable. The discussions and feedback from the assessment team were constructive and useful. One conclusion was that health security demands ongoing reflection, reinvestment and rehearsal. At the country level, PHEPA is a great opportunity to learn, recalibrate and improve public health systems.

The Management Board took note of the key findings from the ECDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPA) including presentation from Iceland.

Priorities for the Single Programming Document 2027 and tour de table on long term future priorities (*Document MB64/03*)

23. The Director presented the proposed priorities for the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2027. These are the following: 1) Foster implementation of the One Health approach, including antimicrobial resistance, and strengthen health resilience against climate change; 2) Strengthen immunisation and prevention programmes and foster resource investments in prevention infrastructures and services; 3) Strengthen early warning, emergency preparedness and response capacities in the EU/EEA Member States and at EU level; 4) Promote digitalisation, integration and standardisation of surveillance and laboratory capacity for effective disease prevention and control; 5) Strengthen strategic partnerships at the EU and international levels to intensify synergies and avoid duplication of actions. Concerning the next steps, the Director clarified that based on the discussions, a more detailed document will be prepared for the November MB meeting. She invited the MB members to provide feedback on the priorities 2027 and beyond.

24. In the tour de table discussion that followed, the MB members generally welcomed the suggested priorities for 2027. The focus on One Health, AMR and climate change was appreciated as well as the inclusion of immunisation, digitalisation and standardisation of surveillance. One member commented that the global health security and cooperation with WHO could be further emphasised in the document. The importance of communication and behavioural science was mentioned as well as tackling mis- and disinformation. Other aspects to consider were future reflections on the PHEPA and the resources needed for these as well as public health work force shortages in general. Regarding digitalisation it should be clarified how ECDC is going to make advantage of the European Health Data Space (EHDS). Concerning preparedness, the need for collaboration between health and military security was raised. It was noted that when further developing the SPD document, it should be highlighted what is going to be deprioritised.

25. The Director thanked the MB members for their constructive feedback. She agreed that coordinated and consistent messaging was key for building trust. The communication needs to be targeted, and behavioural science is important in this context. Responding to a question on the Vaccine Monitoring Platform (VMP), she confirmed that the work was ongoing in close collaboration with the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The Advisory Forum will be consulted on the 2027 priorities in September.

The Management Board discussed the Single Programming Document 2027 and long-term future priorities.

Summary of discussions held at the 58th meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (Stockholm, 16 June 2025), including its recommendations

26. Heli Laarmann, MB Member, Estonia, and Chair of the Audit Committee (AC) gave a brief introduction and then gave the floor to the ECDC colleagues to present the topics discussed in the AC meeting held the day before.

a) Final Annual Accounts 2024 (Document MB64/04)

27. Anja Van Brabant, Accounting Officer and Head of Section, Finance and Accounting, Resource Management Services Unit, ECDC, presented the Final Annual Accounts 2024 of ECDC. She recalled that the Provisional Annual Accounts 2024 had been approved by the MB in March 2025. The Provisional Accounts 2024 were audited by an external audit company at the end of February, and they concluded no corrections were to be made to the accounts.

28. On 16 May 2025, following the closure of the Provisional Accounts, the external audit firm examined whether any subsequent events had potentially affected the correctness of the Final Accounts 2024

including a review of the accruals booked for EUR 11.7 million. The audit firm concluded that no changes were to be made and issued a clean opinion on the accounts on 27 May 2025. The same day, ECDC received from ECA the clearing letter containing two preliminary findings related to their second audit performed in January 2025. On 28 May 2025, the Director and the Chair of the MB received the ECA draft 2024 annual report. ECDC is currently drafting its reply to be submitted by 20 June 2025.

29. Anja Van Brabant then presented the ECA opinion on the accounts, according to which the annual accounts of the Centre present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position at 31/12/2024, the results of its operations, its cash flows and changes in net assets at year-end in accordance with its Financial Regulation and the applicable accounting rules. The revenue and payments underlying the accounts are legal and regular in all material respects. Three observations are made; these do not call ECA's opinion on the accounts into question.

30. Anja Van Brabant provided some further details on the observations and explained that one of these was a recurrent observation across several agencies regarding high carry-overs. In 2024, ECDC together with several other EU agencies had addressed a formal letter to ECA asking the Court to reconsider its interpretation of the principle of annuality and their set criteria applied to the carry-forward. However, ECA maintains its position that carry-overs to the following financial year should be limited to 15% of the yearly budget (ECDC carried over 24.7% of its total 2024 budget).

31. Heli Laarmann then summarised the discussions held on this topic in the AC. ECDC had clarified that the maximum 15% carry forward allowed is set by the ECA and not mentioned in the ECDC Financial Regulation. ECDC had agreed to send its final reply to the ECA report to the European Commission for information. In conclusion, the AC recommended the MB to approve the opinion proposed for the Final Annual Accounts 2024.

32. The Chair pointed out that the word "harmonise" (page 23 of the document) was not appropriate in the context of EU/EEA surveillance. ECDC confirmed that it would amend the sentence to avoid this term.

The Management Board approved the Final Annual Accounts 2024, including the report on Budgetary and Financial Management, with one minor change in the wording.

b) Monitoring of the implementation of the Work Programme 2025 (Document MB64/05)

33. Stefan Sundbom, Head of Section, Planning and Performance, Resource Management Services Unit, ECDC, presented the status of the implementation of the Work Programme 2025. As of May 2025, 88% of the outputs of the Single Programming Document (SPD) were in progress and 3% completed. Two outputs had been postponed (deployment of the financial system "SUMMA" and the development of a roadmap for potential migration to the Commission's HRM IT system), and 8 outputs (6%) had not yet started. Two outputs had been cancelled: ECDC Observership Week due to staffing changes (expected to resume in 2026) and the integration of the epidemic intelligence dashboard into the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS). A list of all planned outputs under each of the five Strategic Objectives (SO) was provided in Annex 1 of the document.

34. Stefan Sundbom then presented some examples of main achievements in each of the SOs. ECDC's Planning & Performance Section is working to further improve the monitoring system by providing training to all staff responsible for SPD outputs as well as preparing guiding principles for how to define SPD outputs. Work is also ongoing to enhance the PRIME dashboards.

35. The AC Chair reported that the AC had taken note of the fact that 91% of the outputs were in progress or completed. The AC acknowledged the improvements made to the list of outputs in Annex 1 and requested to have access to the guidance documents produced by ECDC for information once available.

The Management Board took note of the monitoring of the implementation of the Work Programme 2025.

c) Progress report – Overview of 2025 Budget Implementation

36. Anja Van Brabant presented an overview of the 2025 Budget Implementation up until 13 June 2025. She mentioned that from the total budget of EUR 92.6 million, EUR 79.3 million (85,7%) had been committed and EUR 2.8 million were in the workflow to be committed. From the committed amount, EUR 27.6 million (29.8%) had been paid, which was a slight increase compared to the same period in 2024. A total of EUR 23.08 million had been carried forward from 2024; of this amount, EUR 15.7 million (67,9%) had been paid, which was also a slight increase compared to the 2024 figures.

The Management Board took note of the progress report- Overview of 2025 Budget Implementation.

d) Budget transfers – Quarter one 2025 (Document MB64/06)

37. Anja Van Brabant presented the budget transfers carried out in the first quarter of 2025. She mentioned that a budget transfer EUR 140 000 had been made to the budget line 1300 "Mission expenses, travel expenses and incidental expenditure" to cover for additional staff mission needs. EUR 212 802 had been transferred to the budget line 3006 "Information and Knowledge Management" to cover for significantly higher translation needs of operational outputs. EUR 360 671 had been transferred between Titles in quarter one 2025.

38. The AC members had requested further explanations on the reasons for the increased translation budget, and it was clarified that this was mainly due to the translation in 25 languages of the report called 'Tools and methods for promoting vaccination acceptance and uptake: a social and behavioural science approach' (April 2025) for an amount of EUR 145 372.

The Management Board took note of the Budget transfers – Quarter one 2025.

e) Reporting on additional topics discussed in the Audit Committee

39. With regards to the regular update on audit activities, the AC Chair reported that the audit of the Internal Audit Service (IAS) on the "preparation, review and validation of external communication content" would most likely be postponed to Q1 2026 due to lack of resources in the IAS. The AC had also noted that no new audit observations had been received by ECDC, one had been closed by ECDC, and four observations remained open, with two having target dates in Q3 2025, one in Q4 2025 and one in Q4 2026.

40. Concerning membership matters, the AC had discussed the fact that the previous member representing the European Parliament had resigned from the MB and therefore needed to be replaced by a new EP member. In addition, the member from Finland will leave the AC and therefore needs to be replaced by a new member representing the Member States. The AC requested the MB to nominate two new members to the AC as soon as possible. In the discussion that followed, the MB appointed Martin Sojka, MB member, Slovakia, and Quique Bassat, MB member, European Parliament, as members of the AC.

41. The Chair and the Director warmly thanked Anni Virolainen-Julkunen for her commitment as AC member and MB Chair for several years.

The Management Board took note of the update from the Audit Committee and appointed Martin Sojka, MB member, Slovakia, and Quique Bassat, MB member, European Parliament, as members of the AC.

The state of play of the designation of EU reference laboratories (EURLs) by the Commission and the operation and coordination of the network of EURLs by ECDC, including discussions on an EURL for biotoxins

42. Karin Johansson, Principal Expert Microbiology and Molecular Epidemiology, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Unit, gave an update on the state of play of the designation of EU reference laboratories (EURLs) including ECDC's role in coordinating the network. She mentioned that nine EURLs have been designated to date with half of the Member States taking part in at least one EURL. A call for applications for an EURL on respiratory viruses was launched in May 2025 with deadline in September. She then described the process for setting up the EURLs and ECDC's role in the different stages. Once the EURL is operational, ECDC coordinates with each EURL on the implementation of their activities. ECDC also coordinates the network of EURLs. The overarching goal of the network is to harmonise operations across disease areas covered by individual EURLs and to address cross-cutting aspects relevant to all.

43. Rita Figueira, Policy Officer, Unit for Health Security, DG SANTE, explained that while the EURLs have so far focused on communicable diseases, the Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health (SCBTH) has a broader scope. A study carried out in October 2024-March 2025 showed a great interest among Member States for the creation of an EURL on health security-related biotoxins. It also identified important elements to consider for the practical implementation of such an EURL given that biotoxins is a multifaceted topic and there is no one agency responsible, neither is there any EU network in place. The knowledge, capacity and approach to biotoxins also vary greatly among the Member States. In this context, if a decision is made to set up an EURL on biotoxins, SANTE would propose a consortium of several EU agencies (e.g. ECHA, EFSA, EUROPOL, EU-OSHA) with overall coordination by ECDC.

44. The Chair congratulated ECDC and SANTE for the achievements in setting up the EURLs. Regarding a possible EURL on biotoxins, she said that ECDC has experience from the One Health work and cooperation with other agencies which is an asset. The member representing DG HERA suggested that it would be useful to receive a presentation on the achievements of EURLs at some point in time. He also mentioned that the EuroBioTox project financed by Horizon Europe has gathered a lot of knowledge on the topic and any future EURL could be based on this already existing expertise. Responding to a question on whether the EURL on biotoxins would play a role during a potential bioterrorism attack or similar incidents, Rita Figueira said that according to the study, deliberate release of biotoxin was clearly in the focus.

45. With reference to the practical coordination of the EURLs, one member commented that going through the CCB contact points for identifying participants to specific EURL meetings was not efficient and this should be done by the EURL, which knows the network and the experts. Karin Johansson replied that ECDC has tried to integrate the EURLs to the CCB structures to support disease networks but encouraged the MB members to contact ECDC in case of any concrete concerns. Responding to a question on the grouping of diseases and the tendency to have broader EURLs than in the past, she clarified that there was a certain alignment of the EURLs with the disease networks but there were also budgetary aspects as having bigger networks allowed for the transfer of resources which increased the flexibility.

46. The Chair thanked ECDC and SANTE for the presentation and welcomed the fact that there was already a proposal for the possible way forward.

The Management Board took note of the state of play of the designation of EU reference laboratories (EURLs) and the operation and coordination of the network of EURLs by ECDC, including discussions on an EURL for biotoxins.

Update on Vector-Borne Diseases: Current Status, Collaborations, and Surveillance Outputs

47. Ole Heuer, Head of Unit, One Health related Diseases Unit, ECDC, gave an update on Vector-Borne Diseases focusing on dengue and West Nile virus (WNV). He gave an overview of the situation in the

EU/EEA with respect to both diseases and described how ECDC works with surveillance and risk assessments. He also presented the main areas of work for 2025-2026 noting that two scientific advice reports would be published in the autumn.

48. In the discussion that followed, it was inquired whether ECDC planned any specific communication activities ahead of the WNV season. ECDC colleagues clarified that awareness raising was part of the work for instance through social media and contacts with journalists. One MB member requested an informal discussion on vector-borne diseases between ECDC experts and experts in his country. Responding to a comment on the unclear situation regarding availability of dengue vaccines, Ole Heuer noted that ECDC was aware of the issue and this matter would be addressed also in subsequent reports. Referring to a recent ECDC report related to climate change, one MB member stressed the importance of following existing procedures on the use of Member State's data in ECDC publications to ensure the source of the data is properly acknowledged. The Director replied that ECDC would look into the matter to ensure that existing policies are consistently followed.

49. The Chair concluded the discussion and noted that a more in-depth exchange on vector-borne diseases could be considered on another occasion.

The Management Board took note of the update on Vector-Borne Diseases: Current Status, Collaborations, and Surveillance Outputs.

Memorandum of Understanding between ECDC and Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (*Document MB64/07*)

50. Antonis Lanaras presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECDC and Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. He recalled the legal basis for ECDC's collaboration with international partners and noted that ECDC's amended mandate as well as the SCBTH Regulation and the EU Global Health Strategy call on ECDC to further strengthen and expand its collaboration with CDCs in third countries and supranational CDCs. He then presented the main areas of collaboration and the proposed modalities of cooperation noting that the MoU followed the same format as the existing MoUs with other CDCs. The MoU was presented to the MB for endorsement.

The Management Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between ECDC and Gulf Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Update on Inter-Agency Collaboration in the Cross-Agency One Health Task Force: Implementing the Framework for Action

51. Ole Heuer gave an update on the EU Cross-Agency One Health Task Force which was established in spring 2023 by ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA. In May 2024, the five agencies published a joint framework for action outlining the overall vision of the Task Force and five strategic objectives for the period 2024-2026. As task forces are usually of a temporary nature, the agencies have discussed and found agreement on how to proceed towards a more permanent form of transdisciplinary cooperation between the EU agencies.

52. The Chair thanked ECDC for the valuable work in this area and added that One Health will continue to be high on the agenda in 2027 and beyond as noted during the earlier discussions on the priorities for the SPD 2027.

The Management Board took note of the update on the Inter-Agency Collaboration in the Cross-Agency One Health Task Force.

The times are ready for a surveillance paradigm shift: new ambitions and tools to address current hurdles and tackle infectious disease threats

53. Bruno Ciancio, Head of Unit, Directly transmitted and Vaccine-preventable Diseases Unit, ECDC, mentioned that conducting surveillance of infectious diseases is a significant task for Member States and ECDC consuming important resources. The data should therefore be used to drive public health action to a much greater extent than what is currently the case. To strengthen EU surveillance, a coordinated strategic approach is needed and ECDC intends to work together with Member States to jointly agree on the surveillance objectives and develop common surveillance standards. As part of this work, it should be considered whether all the current variables are needed, and which surveillance methods are the most effective for each disease. Bruno Ciancio stressed the importance of event-based surveillance not only for controlling outbreaks but also for prevention and communication. ECDC is currently developing EPI+, which is a multi-hazard, open-source, event-based surveillance platform for EU/EEA Member States. Six countries are currently piloting the platform but many more have expressed interest.

54. Following the presentation, the member representing DG SANTE clarified that expert committee discussions on the relevant implementing and delegated acts will take place in July and in the autumn the drafts will go for adoption. Several members raised concerns regarding the practical implementation of the surveillance legislation, and it was suggested that a feasibility study should be carried out. It was also noted that event-based surveillance is rather challenging, and Member States are more used to conducting case-based surveillance.

55. The Director thanked the MB members for their feedback and added that ECDC's role is to support Member States in the implementation and by providing scientific advice. She noted that more tailored systems were needed, and new technical instruments were also available post-pandemic. Responding to a question on ECDC's role in defining standards for wastewater surveillance, Bruno Ciancio said that integrating wastewater surveillance into regular surveillance was high on the agenda but will need to be looked at disease by disease with a pilot for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and polio ongoing in 2025-26.

The Management Board took note of the presentation on the surveillance paradigm shift: new ambitions and tools to address current hurdles and tackle infectious disease threats.

Update on the 20th ECDC Anniversary Event and the fourth Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM)

56. Antonis Lanaras informed the MB of the plans for the ECDC 20th Anniversary event and the 4th Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM). The anniversary event is planned to take place on 4 November in the afternoon while the JSM meeting will be arranged in the morning the same day. The JSM will gather members of the MB and the Advisory Forum as well as Directors and National Coordinators of the Coordinating Competent Bodies. The meeting is expected to include breakout sessions on strategic priorities for 2027 and beyond. Key insights will be reported back in plenary and will guide ECDC planning. A discussion paper will be prepared by ECDC and shared with the participants ahead of the JSM.

The Management Board took note of the update on the 20th ECDC Anniversary Event and the fourth Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM).

Update on the ESCAIDE conference

57. Piotr Kramarz, Chef Scientist, ECDC, provided an update on the ESCAIDE conference, which is ECDC's flagship event providing a platform for exchange between experts in the field of communicable diseases. Originally focused on fellowship training, the conference has expanded over the years to include a wider range of topics and participants. Recent key milestones include the move to an online format during the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of a hybrid model in 2022, which greatly increased the numbers of participants and improved international participation. The next ESCAIDE will take place in

Warsaw on 19-21 November 2025. Looking ahead, the aim is to extend beyond the annual event to provide more continuous opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and knowledge exchange.

58. The Chair welcomed the hybrid format of the conference and the fact that ECDC was following the MB recommendation to rotate the location of the event.

The Management Board took note of the update on the ESCAIDE conference.

Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

59. Christian Schultheiss, Head of Section Legal Services, Resource Management Services Unit, ECDC, introduced the topic by clarifying that Outermost Regions (ORs) are an integral part of the EU even though at a great geographical distance from the mainland. These are French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion and Saint-Martin (France), Azores, Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain). The default is that the OR are included in ECDC's work like the mainland regions of the Member States.

60. Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) are not part of but merely associated with the EU. As part of the association, cooperation in the field of public health and food safety to reduce the burden of communicable diseases is possible. The association is managed by the European Commission. The OCTs are Greenland, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Wallis et Futuna.

61. Vicky Lefevre, Head of Unit, Surveillance, Preparedness and Response, ECDC, explained that ORs are covered in ECDC's epidemic intelligence activities through monitoring of open sources with global scope and included in the Daily and Weekly Communicable Diseases Threats Reports as relevant. Enhanced monitoring is carried out in case of major public health events. Member States may also report events occurring in ORs in EpiPulse Events. The communication on events in ORs is coordinated with National Focal Points. She then explained possible ways forward as concerns indicator-based surveillance in ORs as well as reporting of cases infected in ORs and OCTs. For Rapid Risk Assessments (RRA), the inclusion of certain geographical areas will be based on epidemiological considerations. For PHEPAs, ORs will be included as any other region in the mainland of the Member States. Any OR can also request support from the EUHTF through the respective NFP or National Coordinator. Vicky Lefevre then gave a few examples of previous RRAs that focused specifically on ORs/OCTs (e.g. Rift Valley fever in Mayotte (2019), dengue outbreak in Réunion (2018), chikungunya in Saint Martin (2013)) and where ORs/OCTs have been included in an EU/EEA risk assessment as a separate risk group (risk of importation and transmission of Zika virus disease, 2016).

62. The Chair thanked the ECDC colleagues for the comprehensive information and commented that it could be worthwhile adding a footnote on the status of the ORs/OCTs when included in reports as some readers might not be familiar with the terminology. The MB alternate from France mentioned that discussions on the ORs/OCTs had taken place between ECDC and Santé Publique France and the intention was to maintain the dialogue at technical level. For surveillance, there were challenges due to the differences in population and geography and it was necessary to reflect on the purpose of collecting the data and possible sensitivities. The Director acknowledged that there were some difficulties related to reporting, but the technical discussions would continue to agree on the general principles.

63. The Chair thanked the ECDC for the information provided and added that it would be useful to have an update on the outcome of the deliberations at a later stage.

The Management Board took note of the information on Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

ECDC Management Board meeting dates 2026 and 2027 (Document MB64/08)

64. Antonis Lanaras presented the proposed MB meeting dates for 2026 and 2027. The MB agreed with the proposed schedule of meetings in 2026 as below:

- MB66: 26-27 March 2026
- MB67: 16-17 June 2026
- MB68: 24-25 November 2026

In addition, the Management Board took note of the following meeting dates proposed for 2027:

- MB69: 23-24 March 2027
- MB70: 15-16 June 2027
- MB71: 24-25 November 2027

The Management Board approved the proposed meeting dates for 2026 and provisionally for 2027.

Reporting back from the MB working group on revision of the MB Rules of Procedure and AC Mandate

65. Charlotte Möndel, MB Alternate, Germany, Chair of the MB Working Group on revision of the MB Rules of Procedure (RoP) and AC Mandate, reported that the working group had met the previous day to agree on the way forward. The members will review the AC Mandate and provide comments in the document; ECDC will then consolidate the input and prepare a final draft to be shared with the AC Chair and thereafter discussed in the AC in November. In a second step, the members will look at the MB RoP but only with regard to the changes in the AC Mandate.

The Management Board took note of the update from the MB Working Group on the revision of the MB Rules of Procedure and AC Mandate.

Update from the European Commission including an update on the External Evaluation

66. Antonio Parenti, MB Alternate, DG SANTE, European Commission, recalled that the previous external evaluation of ECDC had been carried out under the lead of the ECDC MB. With the new legislation, the European Commission was now in charge of the process. A call for evidence had been carried out in April-May 2025 with ten valid responses received. The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) had been shared with the MB members for comments in late 2024 and thereafter sent to the framework contract holder in spring 2025 with deadline on 20 June. The contract signature and kick-off are foreseen to take place in July and interviews and consultations to be carried out in August-October 2025. The draft report is expected to be available in October/November and the Commission should be able to present the preliminary findings at the next MB meeting in November.

67. In the discussion that followed, some MB members noted that while the new process meant less burden for the MB members there was now almost no involvement of the MB which was problematic. Some members had provided input to the draft ToR but no information had been shared on how the feedback had been taken into account. It was inquired whether the MB will have access to the preliminary report once available. The Chair noted that the MB may need to form a drafting group already at the next meeting in November to look at the recommendations arising from the evaluation and a more detailed timeline of the evaluation process was necessary to facilitate the planning.

68. Antonio Parenti acknowledged the concerns raised by the MB members and said that he would liaise with colleagues in SANTE to see what information can be shared with the MB along the process.

Concerning the call for evidence, he clarified that this was an open call carried out in accordance with the Better Regulation guidelines.

69. Antonio Parenti then provided a brief update on other ongoing activities highlighting the work on the Union prevention, preparedness and response plan to be adopted towards the end of 2025. On behalf of DG RTD, he informed the MB about ongoing and future calls under Horizon Europe relevant for infectious diseases. He mentioned that stakeholders on pandemic preparedness had met in Brussels on 8-9 April as part of the BE READY project funded by Horizon Europe. A research policy meeting on long Covid had also taken place.

70. Wolfgang Philipp, MB Alternate, DG HERA, reported on the ongoing work to develop a strategy on medical countermeasures as well as a stockpiling strategy and updated the MB on activities related to joint procurements. He also mentioned the HERA Industry Days that took place beginning of June and the recent launch of the European Vaccines Hub, which is a European Public-Private Partnership for public health-relevant vaccine development.

The Management Board took note of the update from the European Commission, including on the fourth external evaluation of ECDC.

Update from the European Parliament

71. Quique Bassat, MB Member, European Parliament, gave a brief update on recent activities in the Parliament relevant to the ECDC area of work. He highlighted the discussions in the Parliament's SANT Committee regarding the HERA mid-term review as well as the exchange of views with the ECDC Director. He also mentioned the ongoing discussions on the Critical Medicines Act. In view of the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2028-2035, the SANT Committee has stressed the need for sufficient resources for public health preparedness.

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

Update from the Polish EU Presidency

72. Paweł Grzesiowski, MB Member, Poland, briefed the MB on the Polish Presidency of the EU Council ending in June 2025. The Presidency focused on seven security dimensions, one of which was health security. The health priorities included prevention and health promotion, mental health of children and adolescents, digitalisation of healthcare systems and drug safety. The Presidency led the detailed negotiations on the "pharmaceutical package" which constitutes the first reform in 20 years of the EU pharmaceutical legislation.

The Management Board took note of the update from the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Update from the Danish EU Presidency

73. Kirstine Moll Harboe, MB Member, Denmark, gave a brief presentation on the Danish Presidency of the EU Council starting on 1 July 2025. In the area of health, the Presidency will focus on life science and preparedness with AMR high on the agenda. The pharmaceutical package will be brought forward with the ambition to conclude trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament. She then presented the planned key events noting that an international One Health conference is scheduled on 20 November 2025.

The Management Board took note of the update from the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Any other business

74. The Chair thanked all the MB members for their active participation during the meeting. She also thanked the interpreters and the MB Secretariat for their support.

Annex: List of Participants

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
Austria	Sigrid Kiermayr	Member
Belgium	Lieven De Raedt (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Member
Bulgaria	Angel Kunchev	Member
Cyprus	Constantinos Papantoniou	Member
Czechia	Matyáš Fošum	Alternate
Denmark	Kirstine Moll Harboe	Member
Estonia	Heli Laarmann	Member
Finland	Anni Virolainen-Julkunen	Member
France	Anne-Catherine Viso	Alternate
Germany	Gesa Lücking (<i>Chair</i>)	Member
	Charlotte Möndel	Alternate
Greece	Vasiliki Papaevangelou	Alternate
Hungary	Ágnes Dánielisz	Member
Ireland	Richael Duffy	Member
Latvia	Jana Feldmane	Member
Lithuania	Audrius Ščeponavičius	Member
Luxembourg	Éveline Santos	Alternate
Malta	Patricia Vella Bonanno	Member

The Netherlands	Frank Kooiman	Member
Poland	Paweł Grzesiowski	Member
Portugal	Rita Sá Machado	Member
Slovakia	Martin Sojka	Member
Slovenia	Mario Fafangel	Member
Spain	Pedro Gullón Tosio	Member
Sweden	Olivia Wigzell	Member
	Andreas Johansson	Alternate
European Commission		
DG SANTE	Antonio Parenti	Alternate
DG HERA	Wolfgang Philipp	Alternate
European Parliament		
	Quique Bassat	Member
EEA Countries		
Iceland	Guðlín Steinsdóttir	Alternate
Norway	Øystein Riise	Member