

One Health

growing in understanding,
where are we in application?



THE VOICE
OF THE ANIMAL
MEDICINES INDUSTRY



Programme

TIMING	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
09:00	Welcome	Roxane Feller Secretary General AnimalhealthEurope
09:10	Introduction	Robert Madelin Moderator
09:20	One Health: where are we in application? A European and global dialogue Q&A	A conversation with: Monique Eloit Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) Claire Bury Deputy Director General, DG SANTE, European Commission
10:20	Summary of first session	Robert Madelin Moderator
10:30	Coffee break & interactive polls	
11:00	Intro to panel discussion	Robert Madelin Moderator
11:10	<i>Panel discussion</i> The balancing act of public, animal and environmental health How to translate this to policy? Q&A	Nino Berdzuli , WHO Europe Aida Bakri , Environmental Adviser and Sustainability Leader, ADS Insight Ludovico Sepe , One Health European Joint Programme Steve Hallahan , EPRUMA Andrea Bertaglio , Sustainability journalist
12:00	A personal One Health story from Europe to Africa	Dieter Schillinger Deputy Director General, ILRI
12:30	The role of healthy animals in One Health	Hans Dittrich AnimalhealthEurope President
13:00	Networking lunch	



Roxane Feller

Secretary General AnimalhealthEurope

Hans Dittrich

President AnimalhealthEurope



As populations grow, demand for food – including animal sourced food – increases, the climate changes and biodiversity is challenged, so the interdependence of human health, animal health, and the health of our shared environment is more evident and more widely understood than ever before. Today, people, animals and nature are coming into greater contact, which offers both benefits and, if left unmanaged, potential challenges.

The recognition and greater understanding of One Health and the challenges in this sphere have led decision-makers to take decisive actions in a more coordinated and collaborative approach. Development of practices that take into account the complexities and inter-relationships of people, animals and our planet are welcomed by the animal health sector, and we hope to see greater recognition of the positive contributions that healthy animals can bring to public health and the health of our ecosystems.

Protecting animal health helps protect against the transmission of zoonotic, vector and food-borne diseases. But it also helps to protect an essential food source, ensuring both safety and greater sustainability in food production, while supporting the livelihoods of our rural communities and our cultural heritage in Europe. The ongoing pandemic has increasingly exposed the significant burden created by stress and anxiety upon mental health. Assistance, therapy and companion animals are being leveraged in the response; however, they remain underutilized as a medical intervention despite scientifically validated benefits.

The animal health sector both in Europe and worldwide recognises the importance of the work required to develop action plans and mechanisms to support One Health efforts. We are ready to contribute positively and actively.

Event Moderator



Robert Madelin is Chairman of FIPRA International Ltd, a global public affairs advisory firm with boots on the ground in 5 continents and 50 countries, including every EU member state. He specialises in technology, health, food and drink, but consults more widely on corporate strategy and futures. British by birth, French by marriage, and Brussels-based, Robert was educated in England, with a vfirst in History and Literature from Oxford University. He has also studied at the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

Before joining Fipra in 2016, Robert served as a UK and then a European Union trade negotiator, seeing action in the UN, GATT and WTO, as well as in EU bilateral trade and investment negotiations, notably with China and the US. He completed his civil service career at sub-cabinet level: as European Commission Director General for health, food and consumer policies 2004–10 and for IT research, Internet and telecommunications 2010–15.



Monique Eloit

Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH,
founded as OIE)

Bio

Dr Monique Eloit has been the Director General of World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) since 2016. She was reelected in 2021 for a second five-year term. She joined the Organisation as Deputy Director General in 2009. Dr Eloit graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Alfort National Veterinary School (ENVA – France) in the 1980s. She is a senior civil servant for the French Government and classed as an inspector for veterinary public health. From her very first years in the French Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Eloit dealt with sensitive issues such as the transport and slaughter of livestock, at both the national level and at European Community level.

In the 1990s, she furthermore played a key role in the elimination of rabies in France, as she oversaw the national programme for the oral vaccination of foxes against the disease.

Later, she assisted the Deputy Director for animal health and protection, and contributed to the creation of the French national agency for veterinary products (ANMV). She then became Deputy Head of the Department for food quality and veterinary and plant health actions. In 1999, Dr Eloit was appointed Director at the French Food Safety Agency (Afssa) which is now the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES). In this capacity, she supervised scientific and technical support activities of national veterinary laboratories. Before joining WOAHO, she occupied several functions within the Ministry of Agriculture, notably as Deputy Director General for Food, Chief Veterinary Officer of France, and as French national Delegate to WOAHO. In these roles, she effectively managed many health crises, including those for avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, along with various food safety emergencies.

Thoughts on the matter

It is now widely acknowledged that building a healthier world requires improved coordination at the intersection between the animal, human and environmental sectors, applying a One Health approach. The sharing of expertise and the creation of joint policies have become an absolute necessity, in particular, when strengthening health systems and preparedness mechanisms to prevent the world's next pandemic. Yet, putting multisectoral and multidisciplinary strategies into practice can prove challenging and requires enhanced political engagement as well as sound investment in resilient health systems.

The World Organisation for Animal Health has a longstanding partnership with human, agriculture and environmental sectors with the aim of continuously improving One Health outcomes, from global to national scale. We provide our veterinary expertise to address an array of public health challenges that benefit from a One Health approach, including rabies and antimicrobial resistance. Furthermore, WOAHO has recently engaged in the development of a One Health Joint Plan of Action, together with our Quadripartite partners, where we aim to better address health risks at the animal–human–environmental interface. These cross–sectoral partnerships need to become an established part of global health governance dynamics, and thus become a driving force of change at regional and country levels. Such actions, in order to be successful, will need to be sustainably financed. Any investment in health systems must consider the veterinary workforce as critical component of a nation's health workforce, as they are front line workers in the prevention of zoonotic diseases and in ensuring food security.

In a world where recent disease emergencies have magnified the vulnerabilities of our health systems, it is important to realign our collective efforts on disease prevention and preparedness as much as on response. In this regard, WOAHO plays an active role in the high–level discussions on the development of a global accord on pandemic prevention and strongly advocates that the One Health approach is the cornerstone piece of the final international agreement, ensuring that jointly we are creating a more sustainable, healthier future.



Claire Bury

Deputy Director–General
DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission

Bio

Claire Bury is currently Deputy Director–General in DG Health and Food Safety with responsibility for food safety and sustainability. She is also a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges.

She was previously Deputy Director–General for the Digital Single Market in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology and Director of Modernisation of the Single Market in Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

Before that, she was Head of Unit for Company Law, Corporate Governance and Financial Crime in Directorate General Internal Market and Services, and Deputy Head of Cabinet to Internal Market Commissioners Charlie McCreevy and Frits Bolkestein.

An English barrister by training, she worked in the Commission’s Legal Service and, before coming to Brussels, in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Thoughts on the matter

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is probably in historic terms the first area where the EU started to develop a solid One Health policy approach and remains a firm priority. However One Health principles are deployed in many different policy areas of the Commission and actually stretch beyond the more recognised fields of AMR and zoonoses control, like animal welfare, biodiversity, soil health, sustainable use of pesticides, climate and health , prevention, detection, and rapid response to future health emergencies.

Reference to the need for a One Health approach is increasingly encountered in new policies and the Health Union package is a good example. Also the EU4Health 2021 and 2022 programmes includes various actions under the One Health scope. SANTE has established links with different DGs involved in One Health functions as necessary, ensuring appropriate consultation and coordination. A good example of collaboration, is the European Climate and Health Observatory. Applying a One Health rationale in February 2021 the Commission launched the European Climate and Health Observatory (‘Observatory’) a partnership between the European Commission, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and other organisations to allow policy– and decision–makers to visualise climate change–related health risks and help them to take action and respond to these risks. Other partners include the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Lancet Countdown.

Last March the Council adopted a decision to authorise the opening of negotiations for an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. The Commission, for matters falling within Union competence, will negotiate the agreement on behalf of the EU, based on the Council’s negotiating directives.

The Commission believes that the application of a One Health Approach would yield significant benefits for the international community and is actively supporting the inclusion of One Health dimension in the new treaty. In this context it also supports that AMR should be among the priorities of this new agreement. Moreover the Commission is also following the Quadripartite’s work on the draft One Health Joint Action Plan (2022–2026).



Nino Berdzuli

Director of the Division of
Country Health Programmes
WHO Europe

Bio

Dr Nino Berdzuli is a medical doctor and public health professional with over 16 years of experience working in health sector reform, including health policy strategy development, health network reorganization, health-care quality management, and institutional and human resource capacity-building. She has clinical and technical expertise in reproductive, maternal and child health.

Dr Berdzuli joined WHO/Europe in 2018 to lead the sexual and reproductive health programme. In 2020, she was appointed Director of the Division of Country Health Programmes (CHP).

Before joining WHO/Europe, Dr Berdzuli was Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs in Georgia. In this role, she was responsible for the development, roll-out and strengthening of the universal health coverage programme, as well as health system transformation efforts and health sector strategic planning and management.

For over 10 years, Dr Berdzuli led implementation and provided strategic technical advice to the United States of America's global public health programmes in eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia.

Thoughts on the matter

In the WHO European Region, WHO coordinates work with FAO, WOAHA, and UNEP through the Quadripartite Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism. The mechanism serves to identify priorities, coordinate technical support to Member States, and implementation of collaborative activities. The mechanism also convenes partners working to strengthen the One Health approach in the European region. The specific health challenges addressed by WHO and our quadripartite partners through the One Health approach include food safety, prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, health emergency preparedness and response, and environment and health.



Ludovico Sepe

One Health European Joint Programme

Bio

Ludovico Sepe works at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, where he is involved in the Work Package Science to Policy Translation of the One Health European Joint Programme. Ludovico holds a PhD in molecular biology of infectious diseases from the Max Planck Society. During his research he worked in countries such as Italy, Denmark, Israel, Germany and India. Recognising the importance of the application of research outcomes, Ludovico joined the One Health EJP to curate its science–policy interface.

The One Health EJP is a partnership between 43 public health, animal health and food safety institutes, that aims to improve preparedness, detection, and response by enhancing collaboration, integration of activities and harmonisation of approaches in the fields of foodborne zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and emerging threats.

A dedicated Work Package curates the interaction with stakeholders in order to maximize the impact of the One Health EJP outcomes. Ludovico and the colleagues of the Work Package Science to Policy Translation exchange with the stakeholders, analyse their needs, disseminate accordingly the outcomes of the One Health EJP, and discuss additional targeted support. Example of targeted initiatives are Dissemination Workshops on topics of particular relevance for national stakeholders such as One Health preparedness; meetings with European and international agencies (ECDC, EFSA, EEA, EMA, WOA, FAO, WHO/Euro); and thematic reports relating stakeholders' knowledge gaps with outcomes of the One Health EJP.

Thoughts on the matter

One Health is a well–acknowledged approach at the European as well as global level. Participation of animal, public and environmental health sector, however, seems to be often unbalanced in One Health initiatives. Reckoning this, the One Health EJP seeks to foster collaboration of the first two components of One Health, with a common vision to integrate environmental aspects. The cross–sectoral animal–food–human aspects of scientific and integrative activities (research projects, training and education activities) are central. Furthermore, the One Health EJP puts mechanisms in place to make outcomes available to the scientific community, the authorities and policy makers across sectors, and to encourage these and other stakeholders to take up the outputs in their work. Impact of the One Health EJP is expected at least in the fields of society, science and technology, and policy.



Steve Hallahan

European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals

Bio

After graduating as a veterinary surgeon from University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland, Steve Hallahan worked in farm and small animal practice before returning to UCD to complete an internship in small animal surgery. In 1998 he began his veterinary pharmaceutical career with Bimeda (part of the Cross Vetpharm Group), initially being appointed Veterinary Manager and eventually becoming Research and Development Manager. He has also held roles with Forte Healthcare, as well as MSD Animal Health.

He currently works as an independent consultant to the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, as well as running a small animal practice outside Dublin and is the Ireland Director for FECAVA (the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations). Steve has been chairing EPRUMA since October 2019. EPRUMA is a multi-stakeholder platform working at European level since 2005, to develop and promote best-practice frameworks for the responsible use of veterinary medicines to ensure a better prevention and control of animal diseases to protect our shared One Health.

Thoughts on the matter

The animal sector, through the European Platform for Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, is committed to promoting a One Health approach for the responsible use of antibiotics and fighting antimicrobial resistance. But we believe that One Health action goes far beyond addressing the AMR challenge.

Well-designed animal health management plans, including good nutrition and disease prevention and monitoring measures help ensure the holistic care of animals on farms. By ensuring healthy animals this also ensures protection against diseases that can pass from animals or food products to people (zoonoses), e.g. rabies, listeria and salmonella, and contributes to a secure supply of sustainably produced meat, fish, milk and eggs.

Equally, by ensuring the health of companion, therapy and assistance animals, this helps boost the health of those in need of support, as well as the mental health of those living with pets. I believe it's important that One Health actions take into account the numerous knock-on effects of better animal health.



Andrea Bertaglio

Sustainability journalist

Bio

Andrea Bertaglio is a journalist specialized in sustainability, climate change and environmental topics. He writes for various newspapers, magazines and websites. Graduated in sociology, for years, he has been focusing his work on the impacts of food production, starting from those related to animal husbandry and livestock farming. He is collaborating since 2013 with the Italian Communication Project Carni Sostenibili (Sustainable Meats), which aims to cover all the topics related to the world of meat with an informative approach to report on health, nutrition and sustainability. Since February 2022, he is also collaborating with the European Livestock Voice. At the end of 2018, he published the book “In difesa della carne” (“In defense of meat”), now translated into English and soon available.

Thoughts on the matter

“We are only as strong as the weakest health system”. This expression, made famous by the UN, has shown that animal health systems are often fragile. According to FAO and UNEP, around three quarters (75%) of new human infectious diseases come from animals such as Ebola, SARS, and avian influenza and evidence points also to COVID-19 as having an animal source, so the necessity to invest in animal health to prevent another global pandemic is evident.

Many have exploited the Coronavirus emergency to point a finger at the livestock sector and animal production as being the driver of the pandemic. Whereas it makes sense to focus (and invest) more animal health and the veterinary systems around the world to improve hundreds of millions of people’s conditions and reduce the risks of new pandemics coming from animals, it is senseless. Comparing the current farming system with the ones of the past, we see that we have become much better at disease prevention through biosecurity, vaccination and quicker detection.

All this has reduced the size of animal disease outbreaks and their geographic expansion. Some larger-scale farms where animals are housed indoors can implement biosecurity more effectively than small-holder or extensive farms. They are not the driver of spreading diseases like COVID-19, African swine fever or avian flu. On the contrary, keeping the animals confined and protected, far from the wildlife, so the actual origin of these diseases, acts as a barrier to the virus, helping to protect animals and humans.

COVID-19 has once more made clear that we are ALL in the health game together. Hence the importance of the One Health approach. The role of journalists, and all communicators, is fundamental to spreading accurate information about these delicate topics. Their responsibilities for balanced reporting when it comes to One Health are immense because they can influence the public and the decision-makers.



Aida Bakri

Environmental Adviser and Sustainability Leader
ADS Insight

Bio

Aida Bakri is a global citizen and social entrepreneur ardently working for better regulation and higher sustainability standards. With an educational background in environmental science, Aida combines her scientific proficiency with 25 years' experience in the EU legislative domain with a strong focus on environmental policy.

She is the founder and managing director of ADS Insight, a specialised boutique consultancy that supports organisations in their government affairs and sustainability strategies. Driven by the UN SDGs, she is dedicated to using business as a force for good, and her company is currently pending certification by BCorp. Aida is also the Director of the ESWI Secretariat which groups Europe's top scientists working on various aspects of respiratory viruses, Influenza, RSV, and Sars-CoV-2, One Health, and pandemic preparedness.

Aida is a strong advocate for women's empowerment. In 2018, she co-founded the LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub, a not-for-profit organisation to support female agri-business entrepreneurs. She is an expert judge and trainer for the WE Empower UN SDG Challenge and an active member of the Vital Voices community. Furthermore, her 2019 TEDx talk aims to inspire women and youth to embrace social entrepreneurship, using empathy and an integrated approach to business and sustainability.

Thoughts on the matter

Environmental issues are grasping the world's attention at an unprecedented rate today. Both in terms of climate change and ecosystems degradation, as well as biodiversity loss. The environment is the most dynamic and multi-faceted segment of the One Health triad, and therefore – as a consequence – perhaps the most challenging. Some scientists would say that the environment is undervalued, understudied, and over-simplified in the One Health framework.

The ongoing pandemic provides us with a stark reminder that we must investigate the environmental context and its impacts on health further. As scientists working in this domain have indicated, the spillover of pathogens from an animal reservoir to human populations is likely to be perpetuated through transmission by environmental media, and it is important we understand the environmental aspects of One Health and develop multi-disciplinary approaches. Actions should aim to include investigation into how improve the integrated surveillance of disease outbreaks across animal, human, and environmental contexts.



Dieter Schillinger

Deputy Director General
International Livestock Research Institute

Bio

Dieter Josef Schillinger has been Deputy Director General Biosciences at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) since 2016. He is responsible for ILRI's Animal and Human Health research portfolio, including leading the establishment of the CGIAR AMR Hub led by ILRI, ILRI's One Health Centre, and a Contract Research Organization based at ILRI Nairobi that supports clinical research for private and public research organizations. Between 2009 and 2015 Dieter served on ILRI's Board of Trustees, where he also chaired the Audit Committee for four years.

Dieter studied veterinary medicine in Munich, Germany, where he graduated as Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Dieter also holds an MBA from Brunel University, UK, and was awarded in 2012 an Honorary Doctorate from the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. His experience in animal health spans applied animal science, tropical veterinary medicine and the development, licensing, marketing, and sales of animal health products. Prior to joining ILRI, Dieter held various positions in research, clinical development, marketing, general management, and government affairs in private sector companies, and in international research organizations.

Dieter is a board member of the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine (GALVmed) and the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO). He is also a member of the European Commission funded scientific committee of STAR IDAZ, International Research Consortium on Animal Health.

Dieter has been involved in international animal health trade associations and served as the President of the German animal health industry trade association (BfT) between 2003–2012.

Thoughts on the matter

Disease transmission from animals to humans is increasing at an alarming rate. A One Health approach, when applied, has shown the value in saving human and animal lives as well as demonstrated the economic benefits when compared to mitigating risks in a single sectoral approach. One Health approaches shifts the focus on early detection, surveillance and preparedness from disease treatment, control and prevention. Improving our understanding on the complex linkages between the wider environment, biodiversity, climate change and emerging infectious disease is essential to improving health crisis and reducing the risks of future pandemics.

Although globally there is a wide-ranging and growing commitment to One Health, its operationalization has been challenging and requires committed investments.



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AnimalhealthEurope represents companies that research, develop and manufacture veterinary medicines in Europe. It represents innovators and generics alike, as well as large, medium-sized and small companies. AnimalhealthEurope's membership covers 90% of the European market for veterinary products.



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