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## JOINING THE DOTS

TACKLING PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN EUROPE

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TACKLING PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND ANTIMICROBIAL  
RESISTANCE IN EUROPE

Hosted by Annie Schreijer-Pierik, MEP (EPP, NL)  
and Nicola Caputo, MEP (S&D, IT)

Event organised by  
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)  
Changing Markets Foundation  
European Environmental Bureau (EEB)



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### Contact

Sascha Marschang  
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)  
Director of Operations & Membership  
[sascha@epha.org](mailto:sascha@epha.org)

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) AISBL  
Rue de Treves 49-51, 1040 Brussels (B) • +32 02 230 30 56 • [www.epha.org](http://www.epha.org) • [epha@epha.org](mailto:epha@epha.org)  
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# About this conference

The twin problems of pharmaceuticals in the environment (PiE) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) should not be tackled in separate policy silos. The current public consultation on a strategic approach to PiE, and ongoing discussions about the most effective implementation of the EU One Health Action Plan against AMR, provide an opportunity to establish synergies and to highlight the serious impacts of irresponsible production, consumption and disposal of drugs on the environment and on global health.

Water bodies, a major repository for pharmaceutical residues, are increasingly under strain both in Europe and third countries. This translates into loss of biodiversity and behavioural changes in aquatic species, impacts soil and crops, as well as the supply of safe drinking water. With regard to manufacturing, concerns are mounting over opaque global supply chains and the practice of dumping active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) into the environment, with serious consequences for the health and livelihoods of local populations. Such irresponsible practices contribute to the creation of resistant bacteria, which, in our globalised world, can travel fast, bringing serious potential consequences for European health systems and patients.

## Key Questions

- How can pharmaceutical residues ending up in water be prevented in the first place?
- How do you effectively encourage proper use and disposal of pharmaceuticals?
- What policy measures can best tackle environmental pollution in the pharma supply chain?
- What can the public health community do to support 'green' production methods and better waste management?
- Who should bear the costs associated with more systematic monitoring of pharmaceutical residues and increasing efforts to remove pharmaceuticals present in water bodies?
- Should Environmental Risk Assessment results be considered for the decision on granting market authorisations of human medicinal products?

## Expected Outcomes

The conference aims to instigate a multi-stakeholder debate and increase awareness of the PiE and their environmental and health impacts. It will discuss mitigation strategies including strengthening legislation and policy measures to protect water bodies, ensure responsible use and disposal of medicines, expand Good Manufacturing Practices and ethical procurement. Initiatives from the Netherlands and Sweden will demonstrate current efforts by public authorities and other actors.

Another objective is to build up support for comprehensive and effective policy design and implementation of the EU strategies on PiE and AMR, as well as the review of the Water Framework Directive. The size of the problem remains underestimated and Europe can play an important role in "joining the dots" between sectors.

# Agenda

14.00 – 14.30

REGISTRATION

14.30 – 14.40

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

**Annie Schreijer-Pierik, MEP** (EPP, Netherlands)  
**Nicola Caputo, MEP** (S&D, Italy)

14.40 – 15.30

CONTEXT & EXISTING EVIDENCE

**Setting the scene: Pharmaceuticals in the environment, antibiotics production / consumption practices and the rise of AMR**

*Nina Renshaw, Secretary General, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)*

**The global rise in multi-resistant bacteria and implications for patients**

*Dr Christoph Lübbert, University of Leipzig (Germany)*

**Pharmaceuticals in the water cycle**

*Prof Dr Jan Peter van der Hoek, EurEau and TU Delft (Netherlands)*

**Q&A**

15.30 – 16.25

POLICY AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS: HOW CAN EUROPE TACKLE THE PROBLEM?  
Panel discussion

**Moderator:** *Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)*

**European Commission response to the problem**

*Hans Stielstra, Deputy Head of Clean Water Unit, DG Environment, European Commission*

**Pharmaceutical residues and water – experiences with the Dutch approach**

*Marc de Rooy, Ministry for Infrastructure and Water (Netherlands)*

**Environmental risk assessment of pharmaceuticals**

*Dr Caroline Moermond, RIVM (Netherlands)*

**Public procurement as a tool to reduce PiE and AMR**

*Lena Göransson Modigh, Västra Götalandsregionen (Sweden)*

**Pharmaceutical pollution, a concern for responsible investors**

*Magdalena Kettis, Head of Thematic Research, Nordea (Sweden)*

**An industry perspective on pharmaceuticals in the environment & AMR**

*Lucas Wiarda, Head of Sustainable Antibiotics Programme, DSM-Sinochem*

**Q&A**

16.25 – 16.30

CLOSING REMARKS

**Annie Schreijer-Pierik, MEP** (EPP, Netherlands)  
**Nicola Caputo, MEP** (S&D, Italy)