



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

Brussels,
sanco.ddg1.c.3(2011)1058032

Dear Dr. Polcarova,

Subject: Your letter on chlamydia

Commissioner Dalli has asked me to answer on his behalf to your letter of 25 August 2011 concerning chlamydia infections.

Thank you for sharing with us the set of conclusions on chlamydia infection.

The European Commission is aware that chlamydia infections are the most common sexually transmitted infection in the European Union and that the number of cases is steadily increasing. In 2009, more than 343 000 cases of chlamydia infections were reported in the European Union, most of them in people between 15 and 24 years of age. Still, this is just the tip of the iceberg as the large majority of the cases remain under reported.

Chlamydia infections are part of the European Union surveillance system on communicable diseases. A common case definition for EU reporting has been recently updated and reporting criteria are established through the surveillance system at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

On the basis of the notifications, the ECDC publishes in its annual epidemiological report consolidated data on communicable diseases in Europe, including chlamydia infections¹. Additional information and data on chlamydial infections can be found in the recent ECDC publication on sexually transmitted infections in Europe, covering the years 1990 to 2009. The report describes basic trends and epidemiological features of the five sexually transmitted infections (STI) under the European Union surveillance, including Chlamydia and lymphogranuloma venereum infections. On the basis of this report, the overall trends for some STI appear to be slightly decreasing while the trend in chlamydia infections is

¹http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/1011_SUR_Annual_Epidemiological_Report_on_Communicable_Diseases_in_Europe.pdf

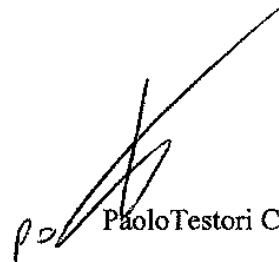
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continuously increasing, reflecting the importance of the problem as well as the improvements in testing and screening practices in a number of countries².

The European Commission has recently funded the "European Conference of National Strategies for Chlamydia trachomatis and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)" which took place in Jurmala, Latvia on 25-27 May 2011. The aim of the conference was to support information sharing between the experts with particular focus on national strategies for early detection and control and to provide a framework for developing, implementing or improving national strategies to control of chlamydia trachomatis and human papilloma virus infections.

In addition, the Commission services of the Directorate General for Research and Development are supporting a number of projects covering aspects related to better understanding of virulence factors, molecular epidemiology, host-pathogen genomics, and zoonotic implications of chlamydia infections. Chlamydia research has also been integrated successfully in innovative studies to identify new targets for fighting antibiotic resistance^{3 4 5}.

Yours sincerely,



Paolo Testori Coggi

Cc.: Emil Bazala, Ing, first vice-chairman, Hana Rolincova, Ing, second vice-chairman
Mr M. Valletta, Mr B. Gautrais, Mr M. Seychell, Mrs M. Matthews, Mr L. Miko,
Mr T. Gumbel, F. Ryan, Mr P. Guglielmetti

²http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/110526_SUR_STI_in_Europe_1990-2009.pdf

³<http://www.immunogenetics.nl/publications/DoT%2045-B%202009%20-%20Morre%20EpiGenChlamydia.pdf>

⁴http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_PROJ&ACTION=D&DOC=1&CAT=PROJ&QUERY=01324e38de5c:5700:244f9f2b&RCN=86497

⁵http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_PROJ&ACTION=D&DOC=1&CAT=PROJ&QUERY=01324e6ab3db:6ab0:28433491&RCN=74098