



# **The case of influenza: Implementing the 2009 Council Recommendation**

**John F Ryan**

**Acting Director**

**Public Health Directorate  
DG Health & Food Safety**

# Council Recommendation (2009/1019/EU) on seasonal influenza vaccination

- **Member States** are encouraged to adopt and implement national, regional or local **action plans or policies** aimed at **improving seasonal influenza vaccination coverage**

# **Council Recommendation (2009/1019/EU) on seasonal influenza vaccination**

- To reach a **vaccination coverage rate of 75 %** by **2014-2015** for
  - **Older age groups (individuals of 65 years of age and older)** and if possible also for
    - **People with chronic medical conditions,**
    - **Pregnant women** and
    - **Young children**

# Council Recommendation (2009/1019/EU) on seasonal influenza vaccination

- To **improve vaccination coverage** among "**healthcare workers**"
- To **foster education, training,** and **information exchange** on seasonal influenza and vaccination

# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

## Identified shortcomings

- In almost all EU Member States the vaccination coverage rate for older people does not meet the target of 75 %
- For all other risk groups, there is limited data available and insufficient monitoring makes assessments of vaccination coverage rates difficult

# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

## Identified shortcomings

- Available data demonstrate low and insufficient vaccination coverage rates of these target groups, including healthcare workers
- Lack of initiatives to identify socioeconomic determinants to vaccination
- Lack of sharing best practices

# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

## Ideas for improvement at the Member State level

- To strengthen political and technical commitment
- To strengthen efforts in collecting and monitoring of vaccination coverage data for all target risk groups
- To engage with healthcare workers more directly on critical vaccination issues

# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

## Ideas for improvement at the Member State level

- To develop data related to the socioeconomic impact of seasonal influenza vaccination
- To strengthen efforts in evaluating the effectiveness of communication activities in reducing barriers to seasonal influenza vaccination
- To identify and test alternatives to traditional mass media



# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

## Ideas for improvement at the EU level

- To document and share lessons learned
- To develop guidance to support the programmatic approach
- To strengthen coordination of research initiatives
- To organise a high level hearing with all stakeholders involved

# State of play on implementation of Council Recommendation

Stakeholder high-level hearing in spring 2015

- To discuss findings of the interim report on the implementation of the Council recommendation
- To share best practices how to improve vaccination coverage rates
- To discuss the added-value of cooperation at EU-level and identify respective measures to be taken



# Thank you for your attention



Commission web page on vaccination:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/vaccination/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/vaccination/policy/index_en.htm)

Conference web page:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/vaccination/events/ev\\_20121016\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/vaccination/events/ev_20121016_en.htm)