

## PGEU Statement EAAD 2018

Community pharmacists are very committed to tackling AMR and encouraging the prudent use of antimicrobials in their daily practice. They do this through taking preventative actions such as educating patients as to when antibiotics are useful to treat infections and how to safely self-treat common illnesses and non-bacterial infections at home. They provide as well advice on and administration of flu vaccines, and in many countries pharmacies are offering disposal and collection schemes for left-over and expired medicines. And of course they provide evidence-based information and advice on the prudent use of antibiotics when dispensing them.

The key role of pharmacists in raising awareness of the appropriate use and in the prevention of AMR has also been highlighted in the recently adopted European Parliament resolution on a European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which also encourages Member States to expand their responsibilities by allowing exact quantity dispensing and enabling the administration of certain vaccines and rapid diagnostic tests within pharmacies.

Our PGEU Best Practice Paper Paper on AMR, which provides an overview of the activities and services community pharmacists provide across Europe which help to address the issue of AMR, has also embraced these same recommendations, calling additionally for an increasing collaboration and communication between community pharmacists, other healthcare professionals, health service providers, regulators, industry, patients and the public.

As PGEU we are engaged in several multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Medsdisposal campaign, and together with our members we have been actively participating in awareness campaigns such as the EAAD and the World Antibiotic Awareness Week. We like to continue engaging in policy debates on the European level, and welcome everyone to collaborate with us to tackle this crucial problem in Europe.