

<INSERT: Place, date>

Dear <Hospital Manager>,

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most important threats to patient safety in hospitals in Europe. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria have become an everyday occurrence in many European hospitals where they affect patient safety, and increase patient morbidity and mortality as well as the average length of stay in hospital.

As part of a European-wide initiative, we are contacting you to call for your support to fighting the alarming rise in antibiotic resistance across Europe. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has, together with health authorities across the European Union, launched European Antibiotic Awareness Day, a European public health initiative which is marked annually on 18 November.

**This year, the European Antibiotic Awareness Day campaign focuses on working with hospital prescribers, pharmaceutical committees, managers and pharmacists to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use in hospitals through supporting national campaigns.**

Antibiotic resistance is, as you know, a phenomenon linked to the extent and the way in which antibiotics are used, and inappropriate use of antibiotics is the main driver of antibiotic resistance. Studies show that hospitalised patients have a high probability of receiving an antibiotic and up to **50% <Adapt to national figure>** of all antibiotic use in hospitals can be inappropriate. Misuse of antibiotics can include a number of factors and has been shown to cause patients to become colonised or infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, such as meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant *enterococci* (VRE) and highly-resistant Gram-negative bacilli, as well as being associated with increased incidence of *Clostridium difficile* infections.

**With antibiotic therapy being an important part of hospital care, and given the increase in antibiotic resistant bacteria, your contribution to the promotion of prudent antibiotic use in your hospital would be invaluable.**

In order to support you in promoting prudent antibiotic use in your hospital, we have prepared a number of information and educational materials. These include a factsheet detailing the main issues surrounding antibiotic resistance in hospital settings; a slide presentation which you may use in hospital trainings; and a checklist outlining the main considerations which prescribers may take into account.

The European Antibiotic Awareness Day website <http://antibiotic.ecdc.europa.eu> offers additional resources.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

<Name>

Minister of Health, <Country>

<INSERT: Contact details: Address, Phone, Email address, website>