Press release

EU Chief for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis visits Brazil

Brasilia, 23 March 2017

The European Commissioner in charge of Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, will be on official visit to Brazil from 27 to 29 March.

During the visit, the Commissioner will be holding meetings and discussions on issues in his portfolio such as antimicrobial resistance, food waste and global health challenges, among others.

On Monday 27 March, Commissioner Andriukaitis will visit the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in Rio de Janeiro, where he will meet with the Foundation’s President Nísia Trindade Lima. The topics of discussion will include diseases transmitted by insects (Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya, Malaria and others), development of treatments and vaccination, antimicrobial resistance and research on new antibiotics for leprosy.

On Tuesday 28 March, Commissioner Andriukaitis will hold in Brasilia meetings with the Minister of Agriculture, Blairo Maggi, and the President of Anvisa, Jarbas Barbosa. The meetings will provide the opportunity to discuss EU-Brazil cooperation on health, antimicrobial resistance, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and others.

The EU Chief for Health and Food Safety will also participate in a debate on health and food security in the Faculty of Biology of the University of Brasilia (UnB).

On Wednesday 29 March, Commissioner Andriukaitis will participate in the high level conference "EU and South-America: Working Together on Anti-microbial Resistance", to be held in Brasilia. The conference will bring together the representatives from the EU, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay as well as WHO, OIE, FAO and OECD. According to current projections, annual deaths worldwide from drug-resistant infections may increase from 700 000 in 2016 to up to 10 million every year by 2050. The discussions will contribute to advancing international cooperation in tackling this global health threat.

Commissioner Andriukaitis will also meet on 29 March Minister of Health Ricardo Barros to exchange on matters related to public health, such as Anti-microbial Resistance and tropical diseases transmitted by insects.
3 words may summarise my global priorities:

**Prevention**: fighting the risk factors to prevent diseases.

**Promotion**: encouraging good health, also through healthier nutrition.

**Protection**: recognising measures that save lives.

For additional information, contact:

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