



The EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

Helen Clayton, DG ENV, European Commission

UBA Workshop: Act Now – Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance in the Environment

7 November 2018, Brussels

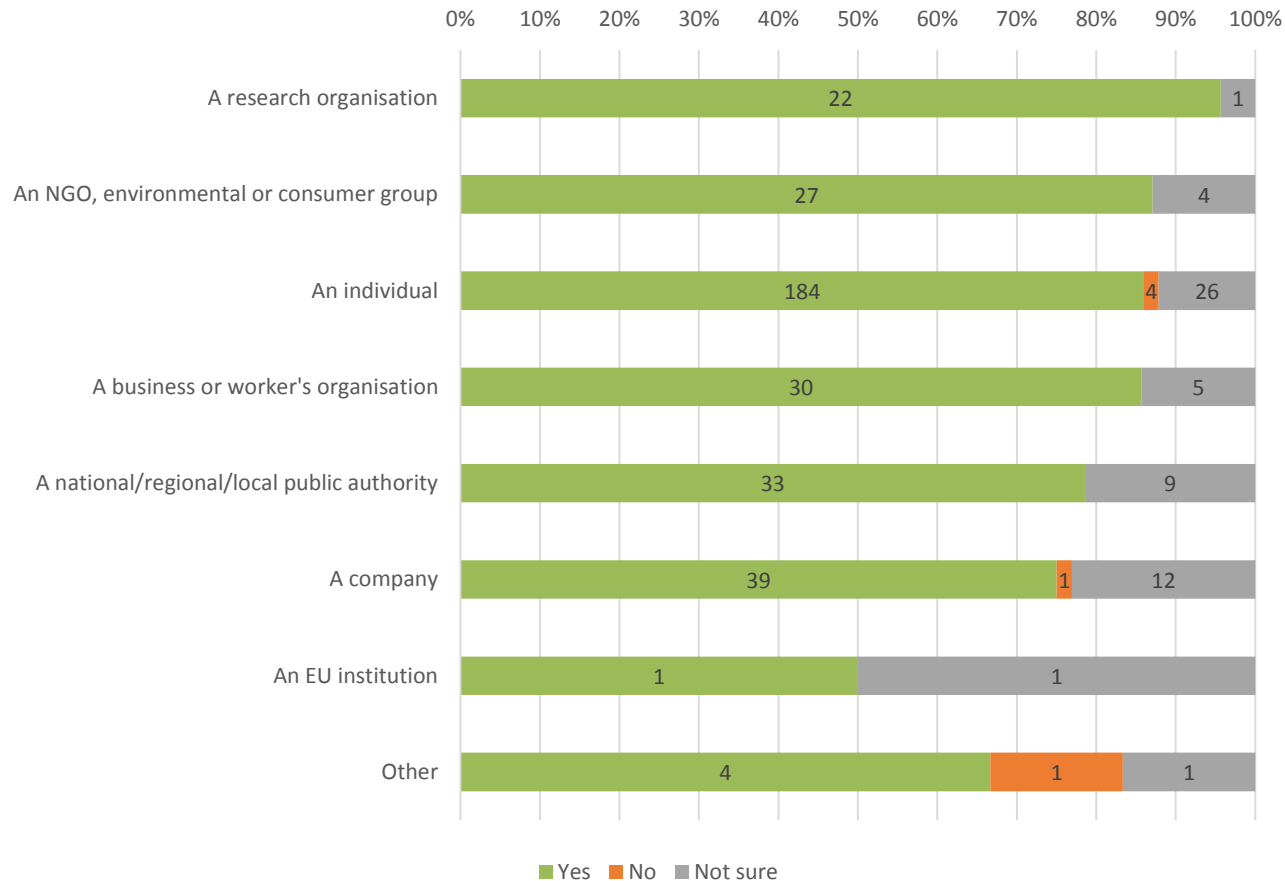
Origin of strategic approach

- COM proposal ((2011)876) to add three pharmaceuticals to the priority substances list under the Water Framework Directive
- Objections from Council, therefore compromise proposed by European Parliament to require a strategic approach
- Article 8c of the revised Environmental Quality Standards (Priority Substances) Directive: Strategic approach to pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances, followed by proposals for measures as appropriate

Steps

- Study (follow-up to BIO Intelligence report of 2014)
- Roadmap – published April 2017
- Public Consultation and Targeted Stakeholder Consultation 2017-2018
- Final internal consultation steps - ongoing
- Adoption - by the end of the current Commission's mandate

Response to question in the public consultation on whether the presence of pharmaceuticals in the environment and the development of AMR are related; by type of stakeholder, in descending order for "yes" (total of 405 respondents, 84% yes, 1% no, 15% unsure)



AMR aspects

- Strategic approach = an action in the 2017 EU Action Plan on AMR, intended to address environmental aspects of AMR
- Need for information-gathering to better understand role of environment in AMR development and spread
- Possible actions in relation to assessing and controlling emissions of antimicrobials and AMR organisms to the environment, including by awareness raising of need for more prudent use

Watch List under the WFD

- 2013 EQSD amendment Article 8b introduced requirement for Watch List monitoring of (mainly) emerging pollutants in surface waters
- 2015 Watch List included 3 macrolide antibiotics
- 2018 Watch List included 2 additional antibiotics
- Results yet to be fully assessed

Some soil monitoring of antibiotics also planned as part of LUCAS