



EU strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment

NoPILLS Final Conference

28 May 2015, Brussels

Helen Clayton, ENV C1 Water

European Commission



Legal basis for strategic approach

- Article 8c of Directive 2008/105/EC on Environmental Quality Standards in the field of water policy as amended by Directive 2013/39/EU.
 - COM to develop, as far as possible by Sept 2015, a strategic approach to pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances.
 - COM to propose, where appropriate, by Sept 2017, measures to be taken at Union and/or MS level, to address the possible environmental impacts of pharmaceutical substances, with a view to reducing discharges, emissions and losses into the aquatic environment, taking into account public health needs and the cost-effectiveness of the measures proposed.



Where are we?

- Following new Commission procedures...
- Roadmap drafted in January, awaiting final validation
- Timeline likely to be delayed by about 9 months
- Plans made for gathering additional information to complement BIO-IS report and other sources
- Public consultation likely in first half of 2016
- Report of Sept 2014 workshop imminent
- Watching other initiatives with interest



Life-cycle approach

(Policy) options relevant to:

DEVELOPMENT/AUTHORISATION/PRODUCTION

CONSUMPTION/USE

DISPOSAL

What can we draw from NoPILLS?

- Additional information on the scale of the problem
- Additional options for consideration, and relevant advice (especially re societal/behavioural aspects)
- Additional technical knowledge (especially re water treatment)
- Contacts/networking opportunities (including for consultation inputs)
- Awareness-raising - to build on



European
Commission

zzzz?



European
Commission

z1



z2



z3



Product optimisation





Less is better?

Doctors to withhold treatments in campaign against 'too much medicine' *The Guardian*,
12.5.2015 <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/may/12/doctors-to-withhold-treatments-in-campaign-against-too-much-medicine>

'Over-treating' patients is wasteful, unnecessary and can cause them harm, campaign claims' *The Independent*, **13.5.2015**
<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/overtreating-patients-is-wasteful-unnecessary-and-can-cause-them-harm-campaign-claims-10245283.html>

Doctors urged to stop 'over-treating' *BBC*
13.5.2015 <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-32703632>



References

Directive 2013/39/EU

OJ L 226/1, 24.8.2013

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:226:0001:0017:EN:PDF>

BIO-IS report

http://ec.europa.eu/health/files/environment/study_environment.pdf

Contact

helen.clayton@ec.europa.eu