

Event-based surveillance and response to food- and water-borne disease outbreaks in the European Union

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EVENT-BASED SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO FOOD- AND WATER-BORNE DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

PROPOSITIONS

Maastricht, 6 July 2016

Céline M. Gossner

1. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) should be merged to ensure the most efficient food- and water-borne diseases event-based surveillance and outbreak response in the European Union [this thesis].
2. If no specific European Union law is implemented to provide a framework to the use of culture-independent diagnostic testing, surveillance of foodborne pathogens will soon collapse [this thesis].
3. European Union Member States from a same sub-region should join up and establish sub-national reference laboratories instead of having respective national reference laboratories [this thesis].
4. The most important skill that an infectious disease investigator should possess to successfully coordinate a multi-country outbreak investigation is diplomacy [this thesis].
5. Unfortunately, no European Union policy makers will ever read this thesis [valorisation].
6. Outbreak investigation is no more than a mix of the games Cluedo, Where's Wally? and belote (klaverjassen).
7. For food safety institutions, economic matters often prevail over public health matters.
8. With the wide introduction of wearable technology (e.g. fitness bracelets) private companies will become the principal providers of surveillance data.
9. Cooking class which would encompass food hygiene lectures should become mandatory in all primary and high schools in the European Union.
10. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." *Antoine de St Exupery, The Little Prince*