

The EC approach to address climate change impacts on human health

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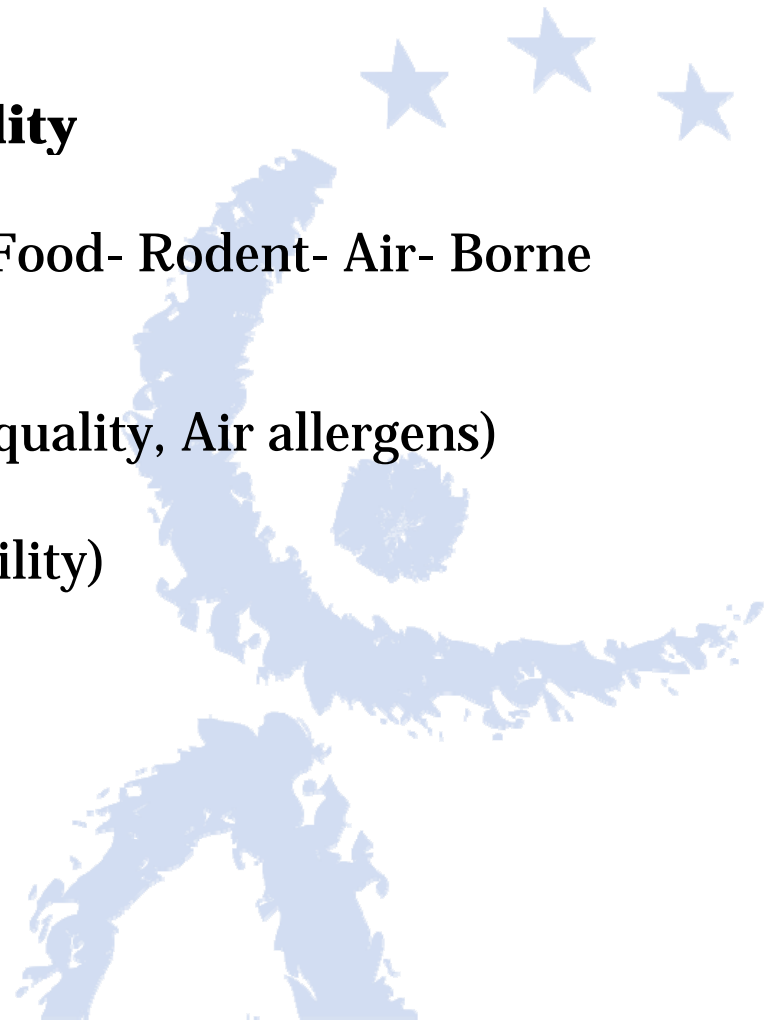
Agenda

- Climate change impacts on human health
- Issues and approaches to consider
- Related policy documents
- Actions
- Steps forward



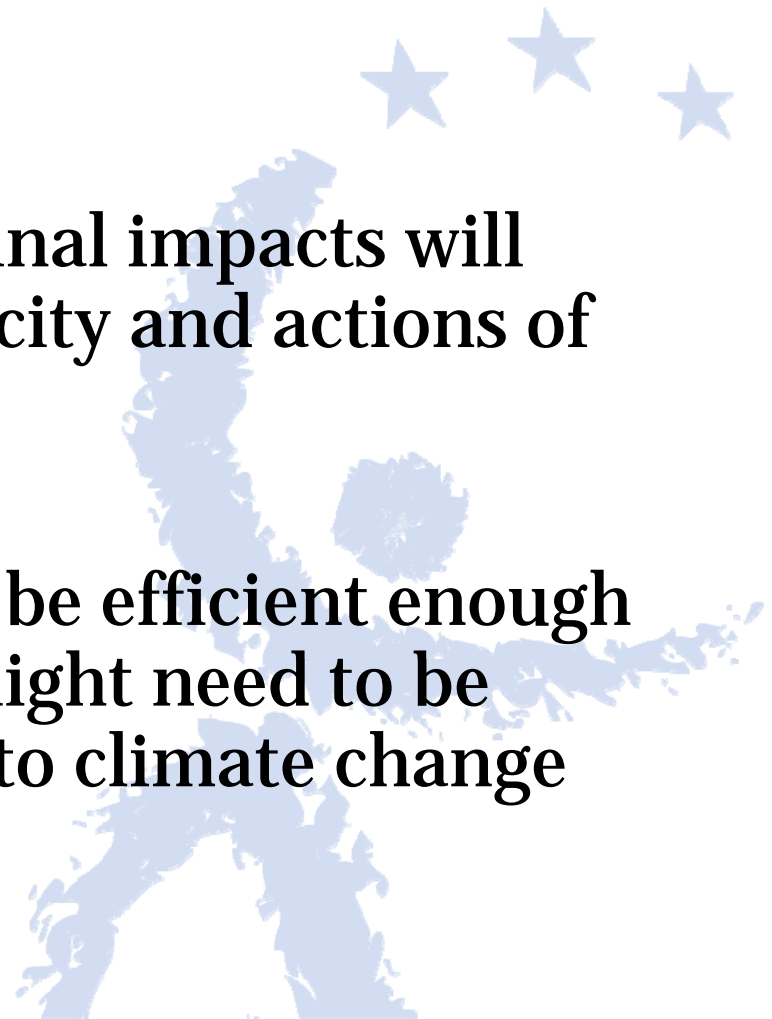
Climate change impacts on human health

- **Extreme weather conditions** (heat waves, floods, droughts, wild fires)
- **Heat-related mortality and morbidity**
- **Infectious diseases** (Vector- Water- Food- Rodent- Air- Borne Diseases)
- **Cardio – respiratory diseases** (Air quality, Air allergens)
- **Water-related issues** (access, availability)
- **Ultraviolet radiation**



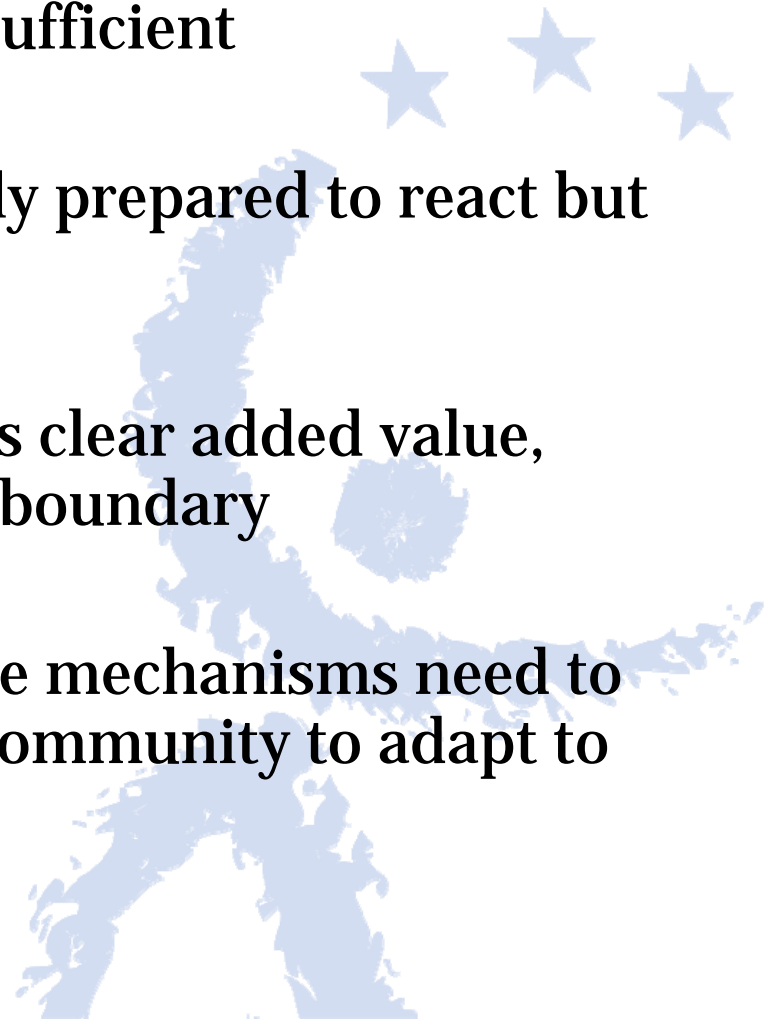
Issues to consider

- Health effects in different countries will be uneven
- The nature and scale of the final impacts will depend on the adaptive capacity and actions of health systems
- Some of the measures might be efficient enough under current climate, but might need to be strengthened or revised due to climate change



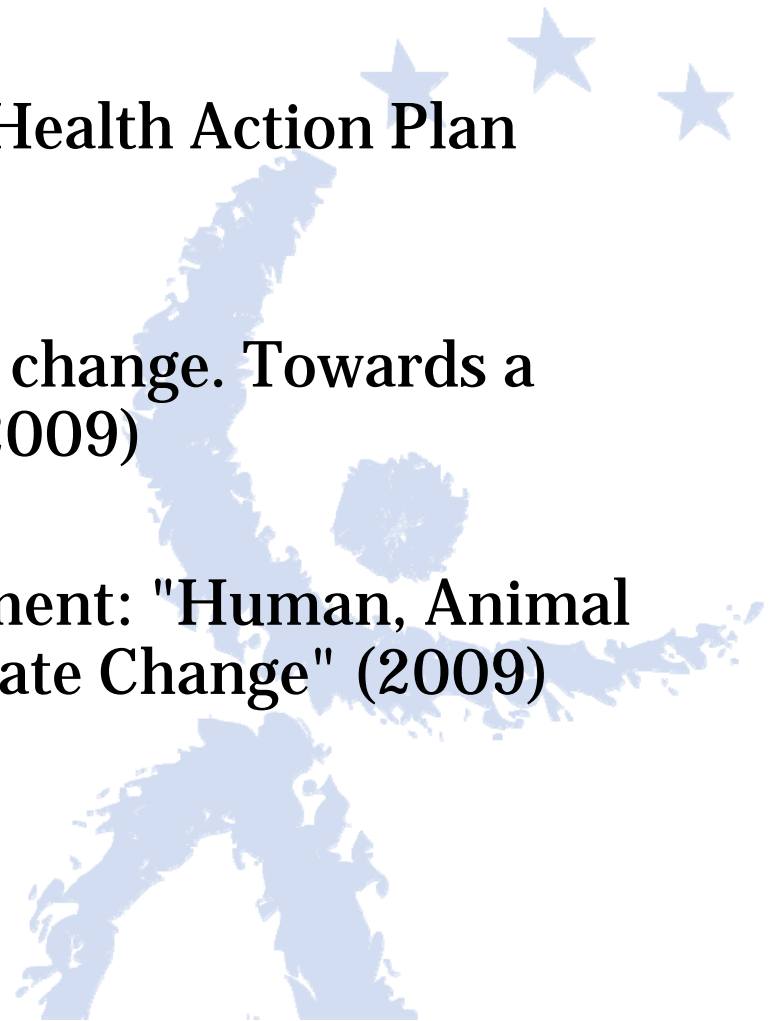
Approach

- A recovery approach only dealing with health consequences (outbreaks) is not sufficient
- It is important that we are not only prepared to react but also to prevent potential impacts
- Work at community level provides clear added value, because health impacts are cross-boundary
- Health legislation and surveillance mechanisms need to be adjusted to better enable the Community to adapt to the changing patterns



Related policy documents

- The EU Health Strategy (2008-2013)
- The European Environment and Health Action Plan (2004-2010)
- White Paper: Adapting to climate change. Towards a European framework of action (2009)
- Commission Staff Working document: "Human, Animal and Plant Health Impacts of Climate Change" (2009)



The EU Health Strategy

- “Action is also needed on emerging health threats such as those linked to climate change, to address its potential impact on public health and healthcare systems”

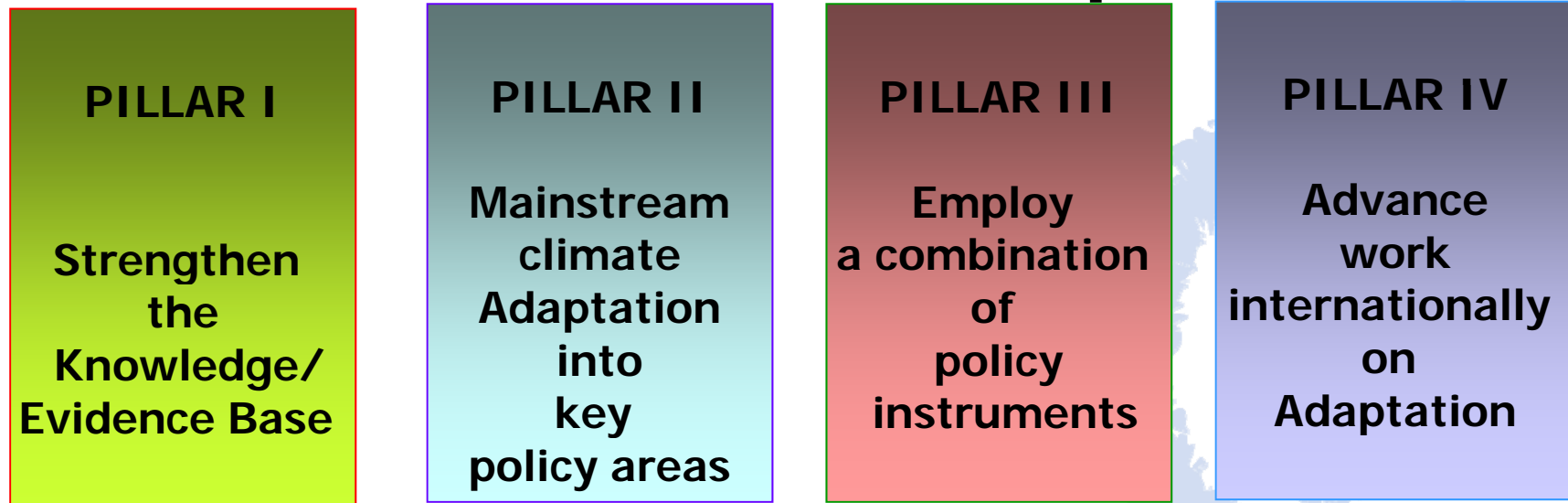


The European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010

- The Mid-Term Review stressed the importance of health effects of climate change
- The Parliament in its resolution stated: “Takes a very serious view of the multiple health risks created by global warming on EU territory <...>” and “Calls on Member States and the Commission to respond adequately to the new threats posed by climate change <...>”
- The Council in its conclusions urged to develop tools for anticipating, preventing and responding to potential threats from climate change

White paper on adaptation

Phase 1: 2009-2012 Preparation



Phase 2: 2013 > Strategy

Pillar I - Knowledge base

- Modelling of health effects
- Assessment of the effects of climate change on vulnerable social groups
- Development guidance on surveillance by 2011
- Link to the EU Clearinghouse mechanism

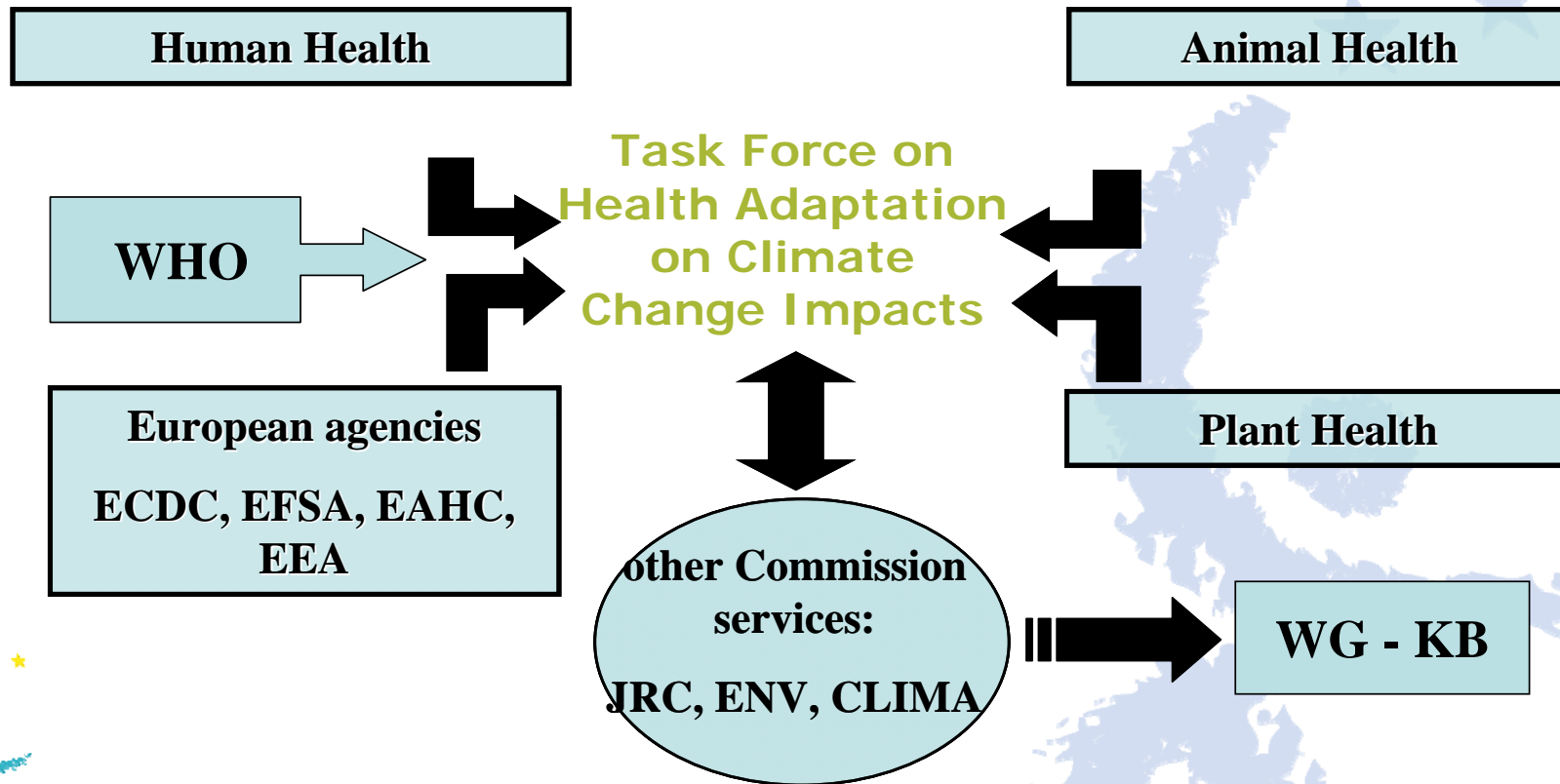


Pillar II – Mainstreaming

- Development health action plans for extreme weather events
- Strengthening public health policies
 - surveillance and emergency response systems, prevention and control programmes
- Identifying efficient adaptation measures
- International cooperation (e.g. WHO, neighbourhood policies, accession countries etc)



Taskforce on the implementation of the Commission Staff Working document (DG SANCO)



How threats are tackled?

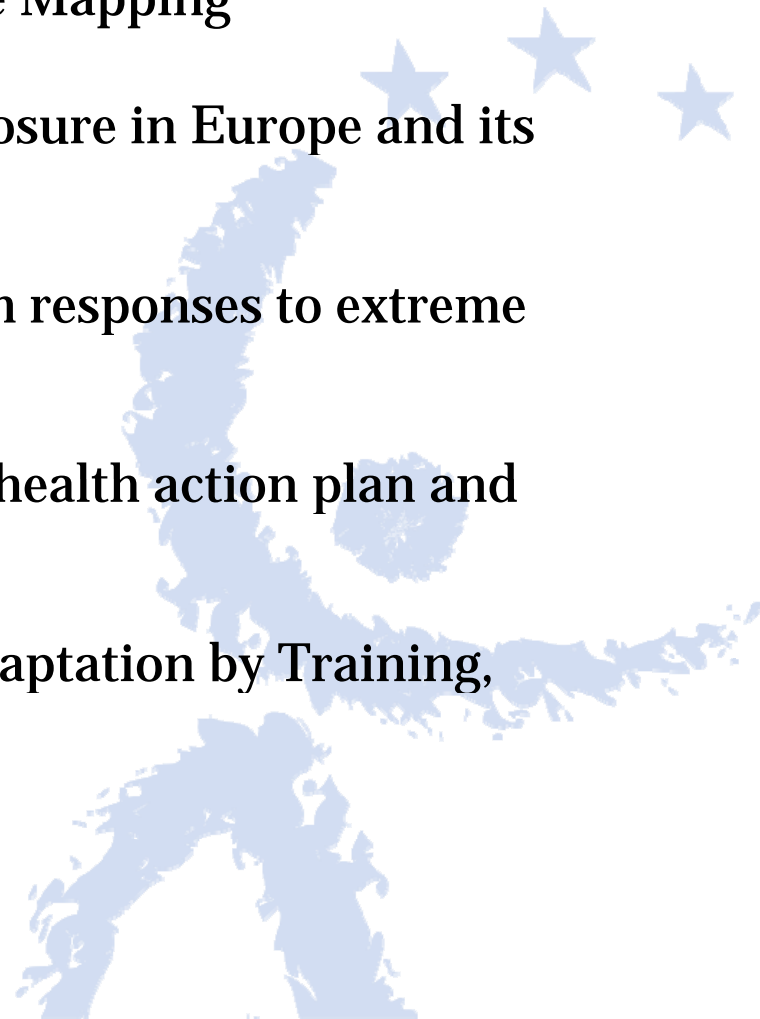
- **Cooperation between the Member States**
 - e.g. coordination in the development of preparedness plans
- **EU Health Programme**
 - supports projects and actions to improve health information and knowledge for the development of environmental health information systems
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**
 - a comprehensive risk assessment specifically focusing on the impact of climate change on food- and water-related diseases
 - develop tool kits for Member States on how to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessments related to climate change and communicable diseases
- **European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)**
 - is monitoring health including environment related variables as part of Eurostat's data collection

Networks

- **NEMO - European network on modelling control strategies for health threats (SANCO / JRC)**
 - serves as an advisory instance in crisis management for public health decision authorities
- **E3 - European Environment and Epidemiology Network (ECDC)**
 - would link climatic/environmental and infectious disease data
 - It should bolster European early warning for climate-related disease events
 - It should also enable forecasting and risk mapping of infectious disease incidence in relation to environmental change

EU Health Programme

- **EUROHEIS** - European Health and Environment Information System for Risk Assessment and Disease Mapping
- **EUROSUN** - Quantification of sun exposure in Europe and its effects on health
- **EUROHEAT** - Improving Public Health responses to extreme weather/heat-waves
- **CEHAPIS** - Climate, environment and health action plan and information system
- **CLIMATE-TRAP** - Climate Change Adaptation by Training, Assessment and Preparedness



Framework Programmes for Research

- **PHEWE** - Assessment and Prevention of acute Health Effects of Weather conditions in Europe (5th FP)
- **cCASHh** - Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies for Human Health in Europe (5th FP)
- **EDEN** - Emerging Diseases in a Changing European Environment (6th FP)
- **MICRODIS** - Integrated Health, Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events (6th FP)
- **ICEPURE** - Quantification of changing surface UV radiation levels and its impact on human health (7th FP)

- **ESCAPE** - European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects

Steps forward

- Strengthening the coordination of EU initiatives to address health impacts of climate change
- Strengthening the surveillance mechanisms
- Reinforcing the MS's preparedness plans by incorporating the adaptation actions
- Strengthening the collaboration of the various services and sectors

Thank you for the attention

Information on health and climate change:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/climate/climate_en.htm

Information on adaptation:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index_en.htm

Further information:

Directorate General for 'Health and Consumers' (DG SANCO)

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