EUCAST provides breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing methodology. ESCMID provides the administrative, financial and scientific framework for EUCAST. The European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) and ESCMID have financially supported EUCAST in 2014, and ESCMID supports the development of the EUCAST disk diffusion method.

**EUCAST Steering Committee**
The committee met five times in 2014, dealing with various aspects of breakpoints and susceptibility testing. “Visiting” General Committee members, European Medicines Agency (EMA) representatives and ECDC representatives attended some meetings. Six groups from pharmaceutical companies presented data on new agents.

**EUCAST General Committee**
The annual meeting for national representatives was held at the ECCMID meeting and activity in the preceding year was reviewed.

**National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs)**
Most European countries have established NACs. The interest in EUCAST in countries outside Europe continues to be strong and NACs have been set up in Morocco and Brazil in the past year. As well as providing valuable national inputs to all aspects of EUCAST, NACs promote national strategies for susceptibility testing and help to implement EUCAST breakpoints and methods. A paper detailing the uptake of EUCAST breakpoints and methods and the establishment of NACs has recently been published in the Eurosurveillance journal (http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21008).

**EUCAST breakpoints**
Version 5.0 of the MIC and zone diameter breakpoint tables for bacteria, and QC tables were published on the EUCAST website in January 2015.

Breakpoints for new agents are set by EUCAST as part of the marketing authorisation process by the EMA. In the past year breakpoints have been set for dalbavancin and several other agents are in process.

Nitroxoline and temocillin breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae are currently under discussion. Linezolid breakpoints for staphylococci and enterococci, metronidazole breakpoints for anaerobes, fluoroquinolone breakpoints for *Corynebacterium* spp and teicoplanin breakpoints for coagulase-negative staphylococci were reviewed but no changes were justified. The method for telavancin MIC determination was revised and breakpoints adjusted. For *Neisseria meningitidis* the intermediate category for ciprofloxacin was removed. Carbapenem and tigecycline breakpoints for Enterobacteriaceae and fluoroquinolone breakpoints for various organisms are being reviewed. For *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* discussions with Magnus Unemo and Gianfranco Spiteri (ECDC) have covered treatment, resistance, breakpoints and susceptibility testing issues.
A guidance note on breakpoints for topical agents has been published outlining the issues with topical agents and listing ECOFFs and systemic clinical breakpoints.

**EUCAST disk diffusion method**
Studies are undertaken at the EUCAST Development Laboratory (Växjö, Sweden) in collaboration with EUCAST Network Laboratories to develop susceptibility testing methods. Ongoing projects include zone diameter breakpoints for UTI agents, disk diffusion methods and breakpoints for *Kingella kingae* and *Aerococcus* spp., zone diameter breakpoints for fosfomycin and azithromycin disk diffusion tests for *Salmonella* spp. QC ranges have been established or studies are underway for a range of control stains and agents.

**EUCAST website**
There were approximately 54,000 visitors per month in 2014. Updates include new breakpoint tables, QC tables, reading guides and methodology sections and revised “Frequently asked questions” and “Compliance of manufacturers” sections. “Translations” and “Contacts” sections have been added.

**EUCAST MIC and zone diameter website**
Additional MIC and zone diameter distributions and MIC-zone diameter correlations have been added and some changes made to simplify use of the MIC database.

**EUCAST documents**
SOPs have been published for preparation and handling of minutes (SOP 7.0), format and update of documents (SOP 8.0) and procedures for establishing zone diameter breakpoints and quality control ranges (SOP 9.0). The development of rationale documents giving the background data and the rationale for EUCAST breakpoints continues.

**Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee (AFST)**
The AFST continued with their work on breakpoints and methods for antifungal agents. The General Committee met once in 2014, during ECCMID and the Steering Committee met twice. The structure of the Steering Committee has been reorganised to ensure a core of members with expertise but also some rotation of members (SOP 4.1).

A new azole agent is currently in the breakpoint setting process. Amphotericin B, posaconazole and voriconazole breakpoints for *Candida* spp. are currently being reviewed and *Cryptococcus* will also be included.

The document “Method for the determination of broth dilution minimum inhibitory concentrations of antifungal agents for conidia forming moulds”, has been revised (E.Def 9.2) and the rationale document on itraconazole breakpoints for *Candida* spp. is now available. An updated table of breakpoints for antifungal agents, version 7.0, has been released.

**Subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing by whole genome sequencing**
This subcommittee is currently being established (chair Alasdair MacGowan).

**Veterinary Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (VETCAST)**
This committee is currently being established (chair Dik Mevius).

**EUCAST expert rules**
These are being updated by the Steering Committee and proposals will be subject to wide consultation.

**Guidelines for companies on data for new anti-mycobacterial agents**
A workshop (chair Emmanuelle Cambau) between EUCAST, the ESCMID study group for Mycobacterial Infections (ESGMYC) and EMA was held in November 2014 with the objective to develop guidelines for companies submitting new antimycobacterial agents.