



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management  
**Crisis management and preparedness in health**

Luxembourg, 24 July 2020

## **Health Security Committee**

### **Audio meeting on the outbreak of COVID-19**

#### **Draft Summary Report**

**Chair:** Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

**Audio participants:** AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, PT, CH, UK, AL, BiH, MK, RS, XK, DG SANTE, DG ECHO, WHO, ECDC, EMA, RTD

#### **Key Conclusions**

1. Negotiations with Gilead (producer of Veklury (remdesivir)): The HSC was informed about the state of play of the ongoing negotiations with Gilead in view of purchasing Veklury for the EU. A call for tender has been launched, and the contract with Gilead is being finalised.

Follow-up: The Commission to inform the HSC about the next steps immediately after finalisation of the contract with Gilead, in the beginning of next week. The Commission to inform the HSC about the allocation key, prepared together with the ECDC. Member States/UK to communicate shipment addresses to the Commission.

2. Commission Communication on short-term EU health preparedness for future COVID-19 outbreaks:

- a) It was recalled to the HSC that this Communication is addressing the need for the EU to be ready for possible resurgences of COVID-19 cases, and that tackling of such resurgences will require closely coordinated, short- and long-term actions across all Member States, to strengthen preparedness and response. A key action would be the reduction of the additional burden on health systems caused by seasonal influenza by increasing the uptake of seasonal influenza vaccines. With the invitation to today's meeting, the HSC received a table listing actions to be carried out by Member States (and others, e.g. the Commission and the ECDC) to implement the Communication, and the HSC was invited to report about their countries' activities corresponding to those actions. This is a point that requires more attention and discussion in the near future.
- b) The Communication was already discussed among Deputy Ministers on 22 July at a special meeting under the DE Presidency. DE asked that a summary of this meeting is shared with the HSC. At that meeting, the possibility of having a common approach to testing was also discussed, in line with the discussion at the last HSC meeting on 21 July. As a follow-up to the HSC discussion, the HSC was invited to send questions related to testing that they would like to ask in addition to the questions already included

in the questionnaire filled in by Member States/EEA countries on a weekly basis for the ISAA report (prepared under the Integrated Political Crisis Response Mechanism).

Follow-up:

- a) The HSC to report in writing about their countries' activities corresponding to the actions listed in the table received with the invitation to today's meeting by 17 August at the latest. The Commission to set up a specific meeting late August to discuss the input received.
  - b) The Commission to share DE summary from the meeting on 22 with the HSC. The HSC to send questions related to testing to the Commission by 24 July cob. The Commission to make a small questionnaire and run a survey as a basis for discussion towards a common testing strategy, to be discussed in later meetings.
3. ECDC update on the Communication and on a possible common approach to testing: The ECDC is preparing an action plan related to the Communication. The ECDC is available to provide input to a possible common testing strategy. The ECDC informed the HSC that they start seeing differences in the reporting of COVID-19 cases, disregarding the agreed case definition. Different approaches will hinder a full overview of the epidemiological situation.

Follow-up: Member States to report COVID-19 cases in line with the agreed case definition, in collaboration with the ECDC.