



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group on European solidarity in public health emergencies

(Virtual meeting)

25 May 2021

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Nature of the meeting

The fifth drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 25 May 2021 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Dr Dionne Kringos, chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. Points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion

The latest draft of the opinion was presented by the rapporteurs. The discussion focused on different concepts of solidarity and the need to streamline, clarify and define where applicable the various meanings of solidarity. It was emphasised that it is important to distinguish between internal and external solidarity and clearly indicate to whom the solidarity is targeted. The reciprocity dimension of solidarity was also mentioned.

COM stated that it recognises the importance of solidarity beyond EU but the current mandate focuses on EU solidarity in health emergencies and EU level actions.

Members discussed how it is referred to solidarity in EU treaties, and current legislation on serious cross-border threats. They debated how both, pre-existing and new mechanisms are

used for strengthening mutual assistance during COVID-19 pandemic and what the challenges in implementing EU solidarity are. Members pointed out that the idea of solidarity is widely supported but there are constraints in implementing it.

They agreed that the shift is needed from reactive to structural solidarity. The importance of binding, bridging, and linking was underlined and cooperation as an implementation strategy to put the principle of solidarity into practice.

COM brought to the members' attention the existing Union Civil Protection Mechanism, European Medical Corps and rescEU as a structural form of solidarity. The information on these mechanisms are available to members via MS Teams.

Members further elaborated on examples of cross-border solidarity, best practices as well as what went wrong during the Covid-19 pandemic and how to strengthen collaboration and solidarity in time of crisis.

They concluded by stressing the importance of sustainability of required transformation at EU, national and regional level to operationalize EU solidarity.

4. Conclusion

Members agreed to provide individual contributions to the different chapters in order to have an updated draft before the next meeting on 9 June.

The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 9 June via MS Teams.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

DE MAESENEER Jan
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURASKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina (apologies)
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZALETEL Jelka

Researcher

PETELOS Elena

COM

MATTHEWS Maya (DG SANTE)
DAJKA Bela (DG SANTE)
VOLOSINOVA Viera (DG SANTE)