

## Letter of Intent Regarding Cooperation between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority of the European Commission (HERA)

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1. HERA of the European Commission and CEPI agree to develop a process of cooperation and the exchange of information. The coordination between national, regional and global efforts in terms of funding of research, development and manufacturing of vaccines and related medical countermeasures against Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) is critical for efficient preparedness at EU and global level.
2. HERA is a directorate-general of the European Commission. It works to improve preparedness and response to serious cross-border threats in the area of medical countermeasures, in particular by strengthening health security cooperation within the Union during preparedness and crisis times and by enabling the development, rapid availability, access and distribution of needed countermeasures and bolstering pandemic architecture for the EU.
3. CEPI is a global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations whose mission is to promote and strengthen public-private collaboration in order to develop, manufacture and stockpile vaccines and other medical countermeasures necessary to respond to epidemic and pandemic disease threats so they can be accessible to all people in need.<sup>1</sup> CEPI is fully committed to enabling global equitable access to the countermeasures and tools it funds.
4. This Letter of Intent recognises the potential of collaboration between HERA and CEPI, to enhance cooperation in support of the development of medical countermeasures, in particular vaccines. These are key tools in effective outbreak management to limit the impact of epidemics and pandemics both within Europe and beyond, including impacts in low and middle income countries. It is of mutual interest to formalise ongoing cooperation by means of this Letter. Such cooperation should enable efficient coordination on end-to-end vaccine research & development, manufacturing capacity and capability building both within the EU and globally.
5. The European Commission is presently supporting CEPI financially via grants under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.
6. HERA and CEPI, within the remits of their mandates, intend by this Letter to seek to maximise the impact of their respective activities and minimise unnecessary overlaps. In this context HERA and CEPI intend to exchange information on related research, development, manufacturing and other priorities relevant for medical countermeasures in order to ensure cooperation on the overall priorities. Where relevant, HERA will coordinate with other Commission services, acting as a contact point.

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<sup>1</sup> CEPI is an association registered in Norway: Forening/lag/innretning; organisation number 917 687 811

7. HERA and CEPI, within the remits of their mandates, intend to share, where relevant and appropriate, technical data and analysis, strategic insights and views on work plans. HERA and CEPI intend to exchange non-confidential information with regard to each side's priorities and funding possibilities while fully respecting the respective financial rules applicable to each signing party.
8. HERA and CEPI, within the remits of their mandates, intend to meet two times per year at senior level to identify and discuss topics of mutual interest and review the progress of the cooperation.
9. To support the work on the areas of mutual interest as laid down in Annex A, HERA and CEPI intend to create a separate bilateral working group at operational level. This working group will not be a formal part of CEPI's governance structure nor HERA's internal structure. Both signing parties remain fully responsible for their own activities and decision-making.
10. The Letter is not legally binding, and does not create any rights and obligations, including financial obligations for the signing parties.

## ANNEX A

The areas of mutual interest for HERA, within the remits of its mandate, and CEPI are as follows:

- High-impact pathogen categories, including inter alia, work on methodology, with additional involvement of other relevant international organisations, such as WHO and regional organizations like Africa CDC, wherever possible.
- research and development activities for pandemic preparedness targeting medical countermeasures, and overall priority alignment, intending to result in effective and efficient R&D and manufacturing efforts.
- Prevention and containment of epidemics and pandemics, especially to inform activities linked to medical countermeasures.
- Vaccines, and in particular:
  - research and development for vaccine prototypes for relevant virus families
  - platform technologies and enabling factors, such as regulatory aspects, clinical trials, lab networks, harmonisation and standardisation efforts, and more
  - options to strengthen clinical trials networks and "networks of networks"
  - fostering innovations, in particular in manufacturing
- Capacity development in Africa and other low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) for vaccine manufacturing and vaccinations, including
  - enabling access to vaccines for LMIC through state-of-the-art contracting, including analytics, such as demand forecasting
  - logistics, supply chains and manufacturing capability for vaccines
  - scale-up of vaccine manufacturing, distribution and administration
  - analytics and demand forecasting
- Effective outbreak management aiming at limiting the impact of epidemics and pandemics, in the area of medical countermeasures
- Activities related to global health security and prevention of biothreats, with a focus on medical countermeasures