



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

Luxembourg, 27 January 2020

## **Health Security Committee**

### **Summary**

#### **Outbreak of novel Coronavirus infections in China and other countries**

**Chair:** Wolfgang Philipp, SANTE C3

**Audio participants:**

AT, BE, BG, CZ, CR, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, IE, IS, IT, UK, LT, NL, NO, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, SANTE 02, DG DEVCO, DG HR, DG RTD, COUNCIL ECDC, EMA, EASA, WHO HQ, WHO EURO

The Chair welcomed the Members of the Health Security Committee (HSC), EU Aviation Safety Agency, World Health Organization, European Medicines Agency and ECDC as well as Commission Services (DG RTD).

### **Key Conclusions**

#### **1. State of play on EU preparedness**

Preliminary assessment by SANTE of the information provided by EU Member States indicates a strong level of preparedness, but there are still a number of gaps. In particular arrangements are in place to ensure that all Member States have access to laboratory diagnosis for 2019 n-CoV, guidance for travellers and to the public and to health care professionals has been issued, health system plans for the eventuality of having to manage cases of 2019 n-CoV. SANTE will produce an overview of all measures and share with countries for their information.

Countries did not indicate any support or needs for additional personal protective equipment stock. The Commission asks for countries to indicate if this changes and will reach out to countries on a one.-by-one basis.

#### **2. Risk Assessment**

ECDC is closely monitoring the situation and will produce an updated Rapid Risk Assessment as and when needed. The latest was shared on 26/01/2020. There are difficulties and limitations regarding the assessment, given the epidemiological data given limited information sharing on

this. It is, however, representative of all current information available.

### **3. Expatriation/Evacuation of EU citizens**

FR confirmed is arranging for aerial expatriation of French citizens in Wuhan to France. They will have a 14 day quarantine upon return.

DE & ES confirmed they are discussing the option but no decision has been taken yet.

BE asked for a coordinated EU level response to expatriation/evacuation.

The Commission has discussed support, which could be provided for expatriation of EU citizens, under DG ECHO's Union Civil Protection Mechanism, there is the ability to provide aerial support. This should be considered by countries and can be activated if the need arises.

Commission services will work on the preparation a coordinated EU evacuation.

### **4. Other**

The HSC representative of Italy transmitted messages from the Italian Minister of Health, one of which was the interest in arranging an EU ministerial meeting on this topic.