



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**

### **First drafting group meeting on care organisation following Covid-19 pandemic (WebEx conference)**

**9 June 2020**

Draft minutes

Brussels, 11 June 2020

#### **1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved without changes.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The first drafting group meeting on health and social care organisation following Covid-19 pandemic took place on 9 June 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Jan De Maeseneer, 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. List of points discussed**

##### **Content of the mandate**

COM presented the main elements and key questions of the proposed mandate stressing the need to look beyond the current pandemic and to trigger a new way of thinking about health care organisation in order to better prepare for future crises and other challenges that may affect health care delivery. It was highlighted that health system resilience has been consistently on the policy agenda since many years. Country specific recommendations on health systems resilience have been recently put forward for each Member State in the European Semester (Communication on 2020 European Semester: Country-specific recommendations, COM(2020)500). The 2019 State of Health in the EU country reports highlighted pre-existing concerns about resilience, and the EU Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) will publish a report on tools and methods to

assess this performance dimension in the coming weeks. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health systems resilience will also be the subject of a Commission/OECD report, due by the end of this year.

Expert Panel opinion would draw on these documents focusing among others on what the criteria to resilience-test health systems for unpredictable high-pressure scenarios would be, what methodologies and models can be used to carry out such resilience tests, and how can the results of these tests be translated into well-documented analytical approaches and practical guidelines in order to improve structures and organisation of health care in the longer term.

Members agreed on the mandate and discussed important elements around the main questions the Panel should answer in this complex opinion. They stressed the importance of comprehensive and cross-cutting approach, the role of correct communication to the public to gain its trust, performance intelligence, building blocks to improve health promotion, significance of primary care.

Members further pointed at specificities of vulnerable groups, socioeconomic inequalities, as well as the importance to ensure that the healthcare system provides care to non-COVID patients with urgent needs during the crisis. Discussion further focused on resilience tests and how the results would be used. They suggested a framework in which such elements as stability, structures and processes, multidisciplinary teams, flexibility and learning, best practices, ability to mobilise resources and deploy across areas, using new tools (telemedicine, BI tools) would be included.

Members referred to the financial crisis and what framework of stress tests existed there. Reference to previous Panel opinions was also mentioned.

### **Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group**

Members confirmed Jan De Maeseneer as a chair of the drafting group and Dionne Kringos, Christos Lionis and Heather-Lynn Rogers as co-rapporteurs who would organise drafting in sub-groups.

### **Schedule for the opinion and the drafting group meetings**

Drafting group members agreed on the following schedule:

Discussion and reporting on ongoing work in plenaries: 24 June, 23 September

Public hearing: October

Approval of the final opinion in the plenary: November

Finalisation and publishing of the opinion: November

## **4. Conclusion**

The members agreed to elaborate the specific questions in sub-groups and report to the Panel in the upcoming plenary meeting. The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion.

## **5. Next meeting**

The draft opinion will be discussed in the next plenary meeting on 24 June 2020 via WebEx conference.

## **6. List of participants**

### **EXPH Members**

AZZOPARDI MUSCAT Natasha (apologies)  
DE MAESENEER Jan  
GARCIA-ALTES Anna  
GRUSON Damien  
KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove  
NUTI Sabina (apologies)  
PITA BARROS Pedro  
ROGERS Heather-Lynn  
SICILIANI Luigi  
STAHL Dorothea  
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna  
ZACHAROV Sergej  
ZALETEL Jelka

### **DG SANTE**

DAJKA Bela  
VOLOSINOVA Viera