

## **European Commission's advisory panel on COVID-19**

### **Report – audioconference Monday 30/03/2020 at 20:00**

The President explained the importance of defining scientific criteria for any potential lifting of measures. In order to encourage coordination, it is important to agree on the key principles and criteria EU Member States should follow when adapting the measures to the epidemiological situation.

The discussed moved on to the agreed agenda:

#### **1. Criteria for lifting the social distancing measures and modelling**

The Panel discussed the different criteria to consider moving towards gradual lifts of measures as well as what measures should be lifted first. It was suggested that any relaxation of the measures should follow the reverse order of implementation. Therefore, the partial or total lockdowns could be relaxed while keeping other measures in place (e.g. mild cases staying isolated as well as their contacts, regional lockdowns, etc.).

Regarding the criteria, ICU capacity and acquired immunity were mentioned as obvious candidates. The latter would still require technical clarifications that should come in the next weeks resulting from on-going studies. It was agreed that the virus circulation level was an important factor and that a stable decline in the number of new cases, as well as decline in the number of ICU cases, would be crucial factors. The differences between and within Member States were stressed and the need for a flexible approach highlighted.

Modelling would be essential in any event and it is essential to consider certain elements. For example, would testing at hospital level provide a sufficiently long lead time before new peaks?

The situations in France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy were discussed.

It was concluded that while it was too early to agree on common criteria applicable to all countries, it was important to define a set of common principles that would frame the lifting of measures.

#### **2. Differences in figures between countries**

The differences in reported figures between EU Member States were briefly discussed. Different information gathering methods were suggested as the source of the divergences.

**Possible topics for forthcoming meetings:**

- Criteria for lifting the measures – Third discussion
- Guidance on EU Emergency Assistance on Cross-Border Cooperation in Healthcare

**Follow-up:**

- Next phone conference on Sunday 5/04/2020 at 18:00
- Panel members to share information with the Commission
- Commission's preliminary criteria and principles to be shared ahead of the call

**Participants in the audioconference:**

- European Commission: President von der Leyen, Commissioner Kyriakides, I. Juhansone, T. De Groot, F. Carlucci, K. Vandenberghe, R. Reig Rodriguez
- Marion Koopman (Erasmus MC)
- Arnaud Fontenot (Institut Pasteur)
- Maria Capobianchi (National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Rome)
- Kåre Mølbak (Statens Serum Institute, Copenhagen)

**Excused:**

- Peter Piot (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Christian Drosten (Charité)
- Lothar Wieler (Robert Koch Institute)

**Observers:**

- Andrea Ammon (ECDC Director)