

**Entry into force of Decision on Serious Cross-border Threats to Health - Statement by Health Commissioner Borg**

"Hope for the best, and be prepared for the worst', is my motto when it comes to health security. This is precisely the intention behind the Commission's Decision on serious cross-border health threats, which enters into force today. The Decision strengthens preparedness planning and coordination to beef up our means to respond to health crises, including communicable diseases or crisis related to a chemical, biological or environmental event. As such, it enables the EU and its Member States to better protect citizens against health threats. The next milestone for health security under this legislation is the Joint Procurement Framework Agreement, which I hope all Member States will sign in the coming months. Under this agreement, Member States can join forces and purchase, together, vaccines and other medical countermeasures needed to fight a cross border health threat. This is to ensure that all Member States, big and small, are able to secure vaccines and other medicines for their people and under better conditions than in the past. This is a good day for Europe and for all Europeans."

For more information on the Decision see the [FAQ](#).