



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Cross-border healthcare and Tobacco Control

MINUTES

CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE EXPERT GROUP

MEETING OF NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCPs) FOR CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE

BRUSSELS, 21 MAY 2019

10:00-16:30

CHAIR:

MS THEA EMMERLING (EC HEAD OF UNIT)

PARTICIPANTS:

- Present: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia.
- Excused: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom and Norway.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Commission welcomed attendees. The agenda was adopted. The objective of the meeting was to exchange views on the Commission's 2018 report on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU and to share experiences on the provision of information to patients, as well as to discuss the outcomes of the European Parliament report of February 2019 and of the Informal Health Council in April 2019. The meeting also addressed the launch of the 2018 data collection exercise as well as the Single Digital Gateway Regulation, its implications for NCPs and the thematic network on "Healthcare in cross-border regions" under the EU Health Policy Platform.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVE 2011/24/EU

2.1. The 2018 Implementation Report on the operation of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare¹

Corina Vasilescu (DG SANTE.B2) presented the 2018 Implementation Report on the operation of the Directive.

2.2. Debrief on the European Parliament Report²

Caroline Hager (DG SANTE.B2) presented the main outcomes of the European Parliament's Non-legislative Resolution on the implementation of the CBHC Directive.

2.3. Update from the Presidency on the Informal Health Council on 14-15 April 2019

On behalf of the Romanian Presidency, the Romanian representatives gave an update on the Health Ministers' exchange of views on "Patient Mobility – Directive 2011/24/EU: taking stock on implementation".

2.4. Exchange of views on the above and ideas for next steps

Issues raised were amongst others:

- The role of NCPs in various projects and relevant ongoing work should be spelt out more clearly;
- The interaction of the Directive with the Social Security Regulations still proved difficult to explain to patients;
- One NCP representative informed that over and above information campaigns, they are also training healthcare professionals on applicable Guidelines related to the implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive;
- The discussion highlighted that the websites should be looked at from the angle of the patient and become the object of continuous improvement so that the end-user perspective can be enhanced.

¹ Adopted on 21 September 2018, COM(2018) 651 final

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=10813&page=1&fullDate=Fri%2021%20Sep%202018&lang=default

² The European Parliament's [Report on the implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2019-0046_EN.html), adopted in Plenary on 12 February 2019 (http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-8-2019-0046_EN.html)

The Commission thanked for the input provided on the 2018 Implementation Report last year and announced that publication of the European Court of Auditors performance audit is due in June. There is strong agreement amongst the Member States, the Commission and the European Parliament to strengthen information to patients, increase transparency, abolish admin barriers and support work of NCPs and of the need to work together to improve the implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive. The Commission stands ready to provide advice and to seek solutions with the Member States.

The European Parliament Report endorsed the production and dissemination of a toolbox for NCPs. The EC will translate key parts of the toolbox for the benefit of NCPs in the coming months. NCPs are invited to choose their preferred linguistic version of the toolbox.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE SINGLE DIGITAL GATEWAY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR NCPs

On behalf of DG GROW, Hans Dietrich Druener presented the Single Digital Gateway Regulation and its consequences for NCPs. The Single Digital Gateway Regulation (Regulation 2018/1724) which entered into force last December will have implications for many public assistance and information services across Europe. The Single Digital Gateway will build on the Your Europe Advice legacy and infrastructure.

The launch of the Single Digital Gateway in December 2020 will have implications for NCPs, as they are listed as Assistance Services under Annex III of the Regulation 2018/1724. To ease in the preparatory work, NCPs are invited to fill in the survey by the beginning of June (5 June is the tentative deadline) and to share the Paper form requesting consent for the processing of their personal data. The NCPs are equally invited to take up contact with their corresponding national coordinator for the SDG.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 DATA COLLECTION FINDINGS AND LAUNCH OF THE 2018 EXERCISE

On behalf of the project team (Health Connect Partners), Petra Wilson presented the final results of the 2017 data collection and thanked for all the valuable input received. Petra Wilson pointed out that the data does not give a clear picture because not all Member States were in a position to provide data in a correctly and timely manner. The Chair thanked MSs that already submitted data, advised the remaining MSs to intensify

efforts to collect data and welcomed the Health Connect Partners to suggest methods of collecting the data correctly.

In terms of next steps, the 2018 reporting will be launched in June 2019 and the tentative deadline will be 22 July 2019. After the analysis of the data, the Draft Final Report for the reporting year 2018 will be presented to the Expert Group in October 2019.

5. UPDATE ON EUROPEAN REFERENCE NETWORKS AND LINK TO INFORMATION TO CITIZENS

5.1. Presentation by Isabelle Dévé, DG SANTE.B3

Isabelle Dévé provided a state of play on ERNs and supportive material for NCPs to inform on ERNs via their websites.

5.2. Practical Example

One NCP (Catherine Donohoe on behalf of Ireland) presented good practices gleaned from their experience with designing ERN webpages.

Information on ERNs is key for citizens affected by rare diseases and their family members. Those NCPs still lacking references to ERNs on their website are kindly invited to do so to raise awareness about the networks and the potential they offer.

6. UPDATE ON THE THEMATIC NETWORK ON "HEALTHCARE IN CROSS-BORDER REGIONS" UNDER THE HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM

Valentina Polylas, on behalf of the European Regional & Local Authorities (EUREGHA), gave an update on the work done by her organisation.

Cooperation in border regions will remain high on the agenda also in the next Commission. The NCPs are invited to take part in the preparatory work for the Joint Statement by registering in the Health Policy Platform. Considerable efforts have gone into the preparation of the Joint Statement to be published in the autumn under the Health Policy Platform.

7. INFORMATION POINTS

7.1. Legal Update

Balazs Lengyel (DG SANTE.B2) provided an update on legal developments and the state of play of the conformity check.

Those MSs having promised to notify measures in MNE/NIF should do so as soon as possible. The series of structured dialogues and related work will continue over the next period. The EC thanks all MSs for enthusiastic and constructive interaction thus far.

7.2. Upcoming events of relevance in cross-border healthcare

The Romanian delegation shared information about the upcoming eHealth week in Bucharest, Romania, in June 2019.

8. AOB

The Commission thanked participants for their attendance and their views. It was agreed that the Commission would circulate the list of NCP contact details with a view to updating it, together with the minutes of the workshop.

The next meeting of the Cross-border Healthcare Expert Group is on October 17 (tbc).