EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

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Cᴏᴠᴇʀ ɴᴏᴛᴇ ʙʏ ᴇHᴇᴀʟᴛʜ Nᴇᴛᴡᴏʀᴋ Sᴇᴄʀᴇᴛᴀʀɪᴀᴛ

Agenda topic 2a: Follow up of informal Health Council of 11 October 2018 under the Austrian Presidency: guidelines for targeted EU-wide support and investments in eHealth infrastructure

Issue at stake
At the recent Informal EPSCO Council held in Vienna on 10-11 September, EU Ministers gave general support to the proposal of the Austrian Presidency for specific <u>guidelines</u> for achieving an effective EU digital infrastructure and targeted EU-wide investment in eHealth to be developed. Ministers expressed a general preference for the above work to be taken forward by the eHealth Network.

Summary
While there was broad agreement amongst Ministers at the Informal EPSCO meeting that digitalisation is likely to increase quality of health care while bringing costs down, they recognised that significant barriers still exist. Most agreed that coordinated action at EU level would be the optimum way to proceed, and that the eHealth Network would be the most appropriate forum to coordinate this work. They therefore signalled that work to develop the above-mentioned guidelines should be undertaken by the Network.
In terms of the priorities to be considered for this work, Ministers noted that increasing interoperability (at both national and EU level) and harnessing funding opportunities (particularly under the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework) were of central importance.
Other issues – such as data security, citizens' access to their health data, exchange of best practices amongst Member States, increasing trust, increasing buy-in by health care professionals, incentivising change and the need to update existing digital infrastructures – were also cited as important by Ministers.
The eHealth Network should therefore discuss how best to take this work forward. The discussion should touch on timeframes for this work (talking into account the mid-2019 deadline proposed by the Austrian Presidency), how the work could be structured, what support the Commission could offer and how priorities can be identified.

Format of procedure in the eHealth Network meeting
The Commission co-chair opens the topic and gives a short background on the mandate given to the eHN at the EPSCO Informal meeting in September. The Commission co-chair will ask the eHealth Network members to comment on how best to take this work forward and related questions. It is proposed that the eHealth Network meeting takes note of the discussion and any outcomes that may be agreed.