



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health  
**Health Security**

## **General Working Group of the Health Security Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 16 July 2024 - 10:30-12:00**

### **Summary Report**

**Chair:** Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG SANTE B2

**Participants:** AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, IS, LI, NO, DG SANTE, ECDC

**\*EU/EEA only\***

#### **Agenda points**

1. Discussion on Article 6 (National prevention, preparedness, and response plans) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371
2. Discussion on Article 21 (Coordination of response within the HSC) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371
3. Scheduling of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA) missions under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371

#### **Key messages**

- 1. Discussion on Article 6 (National prevention, preparedness, and response plans) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371**

DG SANTE explained that Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 that concerns national prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) plans, asks that Member States, when preparing their national PPR plans, liaise with each other within the HSC. For this purpose, DG SANTE is facilitating face-to-face meetings to allow for exchanging knowledge, experiences, and best practices. DG SANTE presented the schedule for the upcoming meetings, with the first meeting being hosted by Latvia from 9 to 11 October. Some Member States asked for clarification on the distinction between Article 6 meetings and Article 8 missions and asked for these two events to be complimentary. Some other Member States expressed concern over their restraint in resources, which might not allow them to participate in these meetings. DG SANTE clarified that these meetings are an opportunity for Member States to exchange on their PPR plans, and that there will be more meetings in the coming years so Member States can decide when to participate.

- 2. Discussion on Article 21 (Coordination of response within the HSC) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371**

DG SANTE presented the latest comments on the Implementing Regulation based on Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371. Article 21 outlines the coordination of response within the HSC. The purpose of the Implementing Regulation is to clarify and concretize the coordination process. The draft

has been discussed with the HSC before. The focus of this meeting was to discuss specific issues raised by Member States. Some of these issues relate to the use of the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS), the notification period for countries for an alert on a serious cross border threat to health, the timeframe for notifying public health measures, and the coordination between the HSC and other crisis response groups such as the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) and the Health Crisis Board. Some Member States showed reservations on the timeframe suggested for the notification of public health and social measures. Some Member States wanted to know how EWRS could further be used as a communication channel. DG SANTE invited EU/EEA countries to provide written feedback by 19 July and will plan bilateral discussions with selected countries based on the written comments. The next step would be to reach consensus on the text before launching internal Commission procedures on it for its final adoption by the Comitology Committee in October 2024.

### **3. Scheduling of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA) missions under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371**

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) gave an update on the scheduling of the PHEPA missions. ECDC shall lead the PHEPA missions in all 30 EU/EEA countries every three years starting from 2024 to 2026. ECDC highlighted that there are several countries that are asking to change the previously selected timeframe. However, this will only be possible if there are other countries willing to swap. Hence, countries have been encouraged to signal flexibility if this is the case. ECDC will continue presenting this timeline to the HSC and asked EU and EEA countries to confirm the dates for the missions to ensure ECDC and the countries have enough time to prepare for them.