



Luxembourg, 13 November 2014

Workshop
with health and other professions likely to enter into contact with Ebola patients
13 November 2014, 09:30-15:30
Draft Flash Report

The Commission, following up the conclusion of the high level meeting of the Ministers of Health on 16 October in Brussels, organised a workshop with health and other professions likely to enter into contact with Ebola patients.

The goal of the workshop was to inform about the Ebola outbreak and specifically: a) provide an overview of the outbreak; b) inform about the Commission's activities at EU level with regards to Ebola; c) learn how organisations of health professionals inform their clients/target groups; d) identify gaps and problems for organisations and their members in the context of Ebola; e) identify areas for EU support; f) identify possible joint activities.

The workshop was attended by DG ECHO, DG RTD, WHO, ECDC and the following associations: UEMO (European Union of General Practitioners), CPME (Standing Committee of European Doctors), EFN (European Federation of Nurses Associations), PGEU (The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union), UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists), EFFS (European Federation of Funeral Services) and HOPE (European Hospital and Healthcare Federation).

In the morning session, the bodies of the EU Commission which participated at the workshop gave presentations about the different areas of intervention of the Commission for responding to the Ebola threat, on the activities provided so far and on how these activities are coordinated with MS and with the WHO. Furthermore, ECDC and WHO EURO gave presentations on the material made available so far for collecting first-hand information on emergency procedures.

Main points:

- The importance of adequate health care settings [reference was made to the PREPARE project (<http://www.prepare-europe.eu/>) and how important it would be to have access to its results],
- The importance of the safety of health care workers in the Ebola context
- The importance of risk communication [in that context reference was made to the TELL ME project (<http://tellmeproject.eu/>)],
- The need to assess Member States compliance with international (e.g. WHO and ECDC) guidelines regarding Infection Protection Control issues,

- The need to have rapidly access to validated information and resources (e.g. protocols, guidelines)
- To draw Health Security Committee's attention to the necessity to have guidelines on funerals available in all Member States, and preferably similar ones,

The afternoon session was dedicated to gathering information and feedback from health and other professions likely to enter in contact with Ebola patients, in order to identify gaps or grey areas in the context of Ebola and to possibly identify room for EU support and cooperation.

Main points:

- The need for a better coordinated and more effective communication at national and EU level,
- The importance to have streamlined, clear and practical guidelines (e.g. for safe burial, where there are no common protocols, even at EU level),
- Empower nurses and other healthcare workers in the process of development of "fit for practice" guidelines and intensive care practices" The need for dedicated training at all levels was strongly highlighted by all professions,
- To draw Health Security Committee's attention to the availability of the pharmacists' networks to inform better about Ebola
- Attending organisations offered their communication channels with their members for relaying important information

The Chair closed the workshop stating that enough inputs are gathered to envisage a follow-up event with more targeted points to address and more associations to involve.

Presentations will be shared with all participants.