



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Health systems, medical products and innovation  
**Performance of national health systems**

## **Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health**

### **Drafting group on European solidarity in public health emergencies**

#### **(Virtual meeting)**

**19 April 2021**

#### Minutes

##### **1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes**

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

##### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The fourth drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 19 April 2021 via MS Teams as a non-public meeting.

Professor Wieczorowska-Tobis informed the Panel and the Secretariat that she was appointed a Regional Consultant in Geriatric Medicine in Greater Poland (Wielkopolska Region).

Professor De Maeseneer informed the Panel and the Secretariat that he became a member of the Belgian Vaccination Task Force.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

##### **3. Points discussed**

###### **Feedback/comments on the draft opinion**

The Chair and rapporteurs gave a preview of the main new elements in the draft opinion and chapters that have been developed so far. Members stressed the importance of correct communication to the public in time of emergencies and what the best communication strategies would be in order to convey clear messages to the public. The public perception of solidarity as well as the political willingness on national level was discussed. The issue of the

most suitable (potentially standardised) competencies of professionals advising national governments was mentioned.

Members discussed individual chapters of the opinion. Regarding the concept of solidarity they agreed to elaborate further the suggested framework on solidarity, add more dimensions such as relational as well as spatial.

Members pointed out that the opinion should not be limited to financial and economical concepts but more linked to values that the EU can share, and to synergies between legal and moral solidarity.

Members discussed different levels of solidarity, namely

- defensive solidarity (reacting together to a common threat, enemy)
- redistributive solidarity (the ones who got the most share with those who have less)
- equitable solidarity (includes the notion of giving more to those with higher needs)
- goal oriented to improve living conditions of people
- global solidarity: what the planet needs to be sustainable.

They stressed the importance of solidarity in action via information sharing, coordination, common goals and action, common analysis and values.

Members pointed out that the idea of solidarity is widely supported but there are constraints in implementing it. Members agreed on the need of data in order to make valid recommendations.

They also highlighted that the distinction between individual country-level efforts and EU coordinated efforts with respect to solidarity should be made more visible. Members suggested to elaborate further on positive examples of solidarity at various levels (EU, between particular countries, between cross border countries, beyond EU).

Members further discussed the technical and practical abilities to realize solidarity, different available mechanisms and their limitations.

Members concluded that, in order to better understand and be prepared for future public health emergencies, the lessons learned from the various previous crisis as well as from the current Covid-19 pandemic should be studied and taken into account.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Members agreed to provide individual contributions to the different chapters and to have an updated draft before the next meeting on 25 May.

The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation to move forward with the opinion.

#### **5. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 25 May 2021 via MS Teams.

#### **6. List of participants**

##### **EXPH Members**

DE MAESENEER Jan  
GRUSON Damien  
KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove  
NUTI Sabina  
ROGERS Heather-Lynn  
SICILIANI Luigi  
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