Health Security unit
Directorate for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

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European Commission

…A changing EU political agenda



Oct 2024



Mar 2025



Apr 2025



Nov 2025

All-hazards
Whole-of-government
Whole-of-society

- Upcoming:
  - Comprehensive Risk and Threat Assessment (CORTA)
  - EU Security Strategy

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Health Security Framework

Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health

- Health Security Committee
- Early Warning and Response System
- Union prevention, preparedness and response plan for health crises
- Public health emergency preparedness assessments (PHEPAs)
- Recognition of public health emergencies at Union level

Health Security Committee – **Article 4**

Composed of representatives from Member States at **two working levels**:

- **Senior HSC level**
  - Strategic discussion on serious cross-border threats to health
  - Adopts opinions and guidance on response measures
- **Working groups**
  - Discuss specific topics
    - General Working Group
    - Technical Working Groups

HSC Tasks – **Article 4**



Coordination of:

- **Action** by the Commission and Member States for implementing the Regulation
- **Prevention**, **preparedness** and **response** planning
- **Risk and crisis communication** and **responses** of Member Sates

- Adopting **opinion and guidance**
- Adopting an **annual work programme**

General Working Group (GWG)

- Discusses ongoing health threats and possible measures
- Discusses general technical and operational issues
- Platform for discussion/coordination of work on prevention, preparedness and response to serious cross-border threats to health

Technical Working Groups (TWG)

TWG PREP

- Engage in discussions and consultations at technical level on prevention, preparedness, and response planning

TWG EWRS

- The mandate of the TWG is to support defining the functioning of the EU Early Warning and Response System. For:
  - Preparedness and response;
  - Early warning and alert notification; and
  - Crisis management of all threats and the functioning and future developments of the EWRS

TWG CIVMIL

- Enhance civil-military cooperation on health security preparedness

TWG AMR - Dormant

TWG VAX – Coming soon



Andes Hantavirus Outbreak response

European Commission

DG SANTE response actions

- Coordination meetings between EC services and affected countries
- Activation of the EU Health Task Force
- Meetings with the Global Health Security Initiative
- Joint HSC meetings with the civil protection authorities
- ECDC's Rapid Scientific Advice and guidance
  - Including on the management of passengers and crew
  - Including on contact tracing in flights

HSC Opinion on the management of and response to the Andes Hantavirus Outbreak

- Adopted on **12 May**
  - Consultation with the HSC and EC services
  - Consultation with the ACPHE co-chairs
- EU response
  - Health Security Committee
  - EU Reference Laboratory on Emerging, Rodent-borne, and Zoonotic Pathogens
  - EU Health Task Force
  - Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

HSC Opinion on the management of and response to the Andes Hantavirus Outbreak

- Recommendations
  - Monitoring of symptoms
  - Testing of symptomatic passengers and contacts
  - Risk communication
  - Quarantine and isolation
  - Pre-clinical, clinical and public health research needs to be further defined
  - Outbreak investigations
  - After-action review

Ebola Bundibugyo virus Outbreak response

European Commission

DG SANTE response actions

- Coordination meetings between EC services
- Meetings with airlines, airports, and international organisations and associations, including ICAO
- Activation of the EU Health Task Force
- Meetings with the Global Health Security Initiative
- Joint HSC meetings with development coordination authorities
- ECDC's Threat Assessment Brief, Rapid Scientific Advice, and guidance
    - Including on Risk classification and contact tracing of travelers
    - Including assessment of exit screening strategies in the DRC and Uganda
    - Including guidelines for infectious diseases transmitted on aircraft (RAGIDA)

HSC Opinion on on the current recommendations for a common EU approach in response to the recent Ebola Bundibugyo virus outbreak in DRC and Uganda

- Adopted on **22 May**
  - Consultation with the HSC and EC services
- EU response
  - Health Security Committee
  - EU Reference Laboratory on Emerging, Rodent-borne, and Zoonotic Pathogens
  - EU Health Task Force
  - Medical countermeasures
    - Diagnostics and testing
    - PPE
  - Research
  - ReliefEU
  - Humanitarian Air bridge
  - Mobile labs

HSC Opinion on on the current recommendations for a common EU approach in response to the recent Ebola Bundibugyo virus outbreak in DRC and Uganda

- Recommendations
  - Monitoring of symptoms
  - Testing and diagnostic of suspected cases
  - Raising awareness among travellers, health professionals and humanitarian workers
  - Infection prevention and control guidance
  - Monitoring of exit screening strategies in line with WHO recommendations
  - Preparing EU/EEA healthcare facilities
  - Risk communication
  - Exit screening

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