



Luxembourg, 4 December 2014

Teleconference
with the Members of the Health Security Committee on Ebola and other issues
4 December, 13:30-14:30
Draft Flash Report

The EU Health Security Committee held his 21st an audio conference on Ebola on 4 December 2014. The main items were: the intervention of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Dr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, the intervention of Dr. David Nabarro, the UN Special Envoy for Ebola and the report on the Health Council meeting on 1 December.

1. Intervention of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Dr. Vytenis Andriukaitis

Commissioner Dr. Vytenis Andriukaitis addressed the HSC and recalled the importance of the HSC and what it has done so far with regards to the Ebola outbreak. In this respect he stated that the level of preparedness in Europe is considerably improved, also because of the joint actions and decisions taken by the HSC. Touching upon his recent visit to the affected countries, the Commissioner recalled the extreme need of foreign medical teams and epidemiologists, as well as mobile laboratories and their staff, and the need for training local personnel to perform contact tracing, to implement awareness programs, and help organise safe burials. The reinforcement of hygiene practices and safe water and sanitation items are also crucial.

Conclusions:

The HSC took note of the intervention of the Commissioner. His intervention will be shared in writing with the HSC.

2. Intervention of Dr. David Nabarro, the UN Special Envoy for Ebola

The UN special envoy and coordinator for Ebola expressed his gratitude to the Health Security Committee members for making medical evacuation schemes available for international health care workers.

He reported that despite figures show positive results in curbing the outbreak, there are still hundreds of small outbreaks. He underlined that the current Ebola outbreak is the biggest witnessed and carries the potential to spill over to the neighbouring countries and scale up if not confronted properly. He also underlined the need for support by foreign medical teams and epidemiologists to be deployed in the field, as well as the importance of sensitization and community based raising awareness strategies.

He reported efforts for medical treatment of international Health Care Workers and medical evacuation also for diseases other than Ebola. He also thanked Commissioner Andriukaitis for his commitment to this regard.

Conclusions:

The HSC took note of the intervention of Dr. Nabarro. His intervention will be shared in writing with the HSC.

3. Report from the Health council on 1 December

The Chair informed that Member States discussed Ebola during the Health Council meeting on 1 December and that the Council adopted Conclusions on Vaccination as an effective tool in public health and also Conclusions on patient safety and quality of care, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

Conclusions:

The HSC took note of the report provided by the Commission.

4. Preparedness template under Art. 4 of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border threats to health

The Commission strongly encouraged the Member States that have not yet submitted the template on preparedness pursuant to Article 4 of Decision 1082/2103/EU on serious cross border threats to health do so as soon as possible.

Conclusions:

The HSC took note of the report provided by the Commission.

5. Outcomes of the HIV/AIDS Ministerial Conference in Rome

The chair informed that the Italian Presidency had organised this event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Dublin Declaration, which marked a pivotal moment for European action in combating HIV/AIDS. Work to renew EU Member States commitments on HIV will be followed up during 2015.

Conclusions:

The HSC took note of the report provided by the Commission.

5. Next meeting

The next audio meeting of the HSC will be on 8 January 2015, unless the need for a special meeting arises.