



EU Public Health Programme Information day

Luxembourg, 3 February 2005

Workshop "Health threats"

**Topic "Health Security and
Preparedness"**

**Helmut WALERIUS
"Health Threats" Unit**



“Health Security and Preparedness”

Activities regarding countering the threat of deliberate release of biological agents will be undertaken in tandem with ongoing activities on communicable diseases.

These and the activities on deliberate releases of chemical agents are being developed following the conclusions of the Health Ministers of 15 November 2001 and the consequent ‘Programme of cooperation on preparedness and response to biological and chemical attacks’ (health security).



“Health Security and Preparedness”

EU Programme of Co-operation on Health Security

■ Objectives

- Set up a mechanism for rapid alert and information exchange;
- Create a EU-wide capability for the timely detection and identification of biological and chemical agents that might be used in attacks and for the rapid and reliable determination and diagnosis of relevant cases;
- Create a medicines stock and health services database and a stand-by facility for making medicines and health care specialists available in cases of suspected or unfolding attacks;
- Draw-up rules and disseminate guidance on facing-up to attacks from the health point of view and coordinating the EU response and links with third countries and international organisations.

- To achieve these objectives, 25 specific actions have been identified.



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Work plan 2005

There is still incomplete information concerning the review, development and evaluation of policies and plans for facing up to health security emergencies with reference to legal instruments and to the incorporation of advances in knowledge and technology. Within this context, the following are of particular interest:

- Development of tools to strengthen networks of legal actors responsible for control measures;
- Isolation and quarantine measures in compliance with legal requirements;
- Building up capacity for communication and crisis management, including establishment and evaluation of pilot platforms;
- Bio-security policies and procedures;
- Assessment of health services priorities in chemical risk, preparedness and response;
- Development of tools, systems, or networks for the timely detection and tracing of chemicals and natural toxins that might be used in one or more scenarios, and for the related health emergency investigations and follow-up.



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Projects selected for funding in 2003:

- EU co-ordination and dissemination of strategic modelling capabilities to help in public health contingency planning / preparedness / policy for, and mitigation of, the deliberate release of biological agents;
- European Network of Infectious Diseases physicians;
- Development of Generic Scenarios alerting system and training modules relating to the release of Chemicals by Terrorists.

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Projects selected for funding in 2004:

- Development of an alerting system, the criteria for development of a health surveillance system, training modules for the deliberate releases of chemicals by terrorists;
- Development of an improved diagnostic capability in the EU with the collaboration of Russian scientists;
- European training for health professionals on rapid response to health threats.