

### **Outcome of the Health Security Committee meeting, 12 and 13 November 2009, Luxembourg**

The meeting started by a presentation of the progress carried out in the three HSC sections including 1.) influenza pandemic preparedness; 2.) generic preparedness and; 3.) chemical, biological and radio/nuclear threats.

The main topic of discussion was Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. The session began with a presentation on how the Council Conclusions on the Pandemic of 12 October are being implemented. Participants were invited to give an update on the epidemiological situation in their countries and the challenges that countries are facing. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) described influenza trends in Europe. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) gave an update on vaccine assessment issues underway. Many countries expressed concern over the epidemic in Ukraine.

It was agreed that countries would continue to share their experiences with their recently started vaccination programmes. Communication with the public and with the media is perceived as a major challenge.

The meeting discussed the response to the request for Bulgaria for a supply of 200,000 courses of anti-virals. Two member states had responded with offers. Bulgaria thanked the Commission for disseminating its call for assistance regarding anti-virals and specifically thanked the UK for offering 200,000 doses of anti-virals.

There was a discussion of how the Committee could devise a solidarity mechanism for identifying supplies of medical counter-measures (vaccines, anti-virals, masks, other medicines) which could be made available from one member state to another in case of emergency and on request. This 'Fire Blanket' could be used to counter outbreaks in particular member states in case of an outbreak or health threat for which there was a lack of medical counter-measures to implement control.