

A note of the HSC - EWRS urgent audio-conference on 31 October 2009

The Commission called on 31 October 2009 an urgent audio-conference of the Health Security Committee –Early Warning and Response System contact points of the Member States to review the epidemiological situation in Ukraine. Ukraine is reporting three clusters of cases of severe acute respiratory illness in the western part of the country.

During the meeting, the WHO gave an update on the situation and ECDC informed on the risk assessment for the European Union. The Member States informed on the public health measures taken or planned by them in this situation. These concern in particular advice for persons travelling to that country or returning from there, as well as advice on personal protective and prevention measures. The European Commission delegation in Ukraine also gave information on the measures taken by the Ukrainian government to mitigate the spread of the infection. It was agreed that the WHO and ECDC will continue to follow the developments closely and the Commission will organise another meeting of the Health Security Committee and Early Warning and Response Contact Points if the situation develops.