

## **A Note on the Health Security Committee – Early Warning Response System Urgent Audio-Conference on 3 November 2009.**

The Commission called a meeting of the Health Security Committee – Early Warning Response System contact points to discuss, on 3 November, the flu developments in Ukraine and the countries in the region.

At the meeting, ECDC reported on the latest situation in Ukraine itself, and on Ukraine's neighbours. Belarus has seen fatal cases, possibly due to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Romania now has outbreaks in four regions, and authorities have banned hospital visitation closed some schools. The ECDC warned that the situation in Ukraine will mean more cases of influenza across the EU.

Ukraine has requested assistance from the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) in DG Environment, which can help countries in need. Countries have started donating assistance to Ukraine bilaterally. However, the Commission and WHO both called for better coordination, particularly if other countries in the region would also request help in the coming days and weeks.

Bulgaria and Romania gave information on the levels of the stockpiles of antiviral drugs for their respective populations. They also gave information on the latest situation as regards H1N1 infections.

The Commission is offering to act as a platform for discussions on joint vaccine procurement and voluntary sales of excess supplies of vaccines between Member States.