

Courtesy Translation

H.E. MR. JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
BRUSSELS, KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

***Subject: Statement of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health, COM (2011) 866***

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

At a regular sitting, held on 14 March 2012, the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds (CEAOEF) examined the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health, included as item 14 of the Annual Working Program of the National Assembly on European Union Issues 2011.

The Bulgarian Parliament **welcomes the proposal for a Decision** establishing common EU legislation, covering all major cross-border health threats. The Bulgarian Parliament considers that the proposal for a Decision will enable Member States to actively cooperate with each other as well as with the EU structures, aimed at minimizing the adverse impact of potential public health emergencies of international concern.

In the framework of the political dialogue, enclosed herewith please find the approved CEAOEF Report, which contains a Statement (working translation of the Statement in English is herewith provided) with a **positive assessment of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality**. Meanwhile, CEAOEF, reflecting also the position of the respective Parliamentary Healthcare Committee, raises some remarks on the **joint procurement procedure of medical countermeasures**.

With my best wishes this continued partnership between the European Commission and the Bulgarian National Assembly to grow and thrive through mutual respect and understanding, please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**PRESIDENT  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

**TSETSKA TSACHEVA**

*Enclosure: as per text*



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**STATEMENT**

**OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OVERSIGHT OF THE EUROPEAN  
FUNDS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**Following the discussion on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health, COM (2011) 866, included as item 14 of the Annual Working Program of the National Assembly on European Union Issues 2011 and taking into consideration the statement of the respective Healthcare Committee within the Bulgarian Parliament, the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds (CEAOEF) expresses the following statement, which is to be sent to the European institutions in the framework of the political dialogue:**

1. CEAOEF welcomes the proposal for a Decision establishing common EU legislation, covering all major cross-border health threats. CEAOEF believes that the proposed decision will enable Member States to actively cooperate with each other as well as with the EU structures, aimed at minimizing the adverse impact of potential public health emergencies of international concern.
2. The proposal for a Decision **is consistent with the principle of subsidiarity**, as set out in Art. 5, paragraph 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), since its objectives can be better achieved at EU level due to the explicit cross-border effect of the serious threats to health, included in the proposal. The serious cross-border health threats require consistent and coordinated approach between the Member States in order to limit the risk of spreading them further and to minimize their negative consequences.
3. The proposal for a Decision **is in compliance with the principle of proportionality**, established in article 5, paragraph 4 of TEU, since it does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties. The proposal builds on the experience gained in the field of coordination of the communicable diseases. It is aimed at enhancing the capacity for effective response to serious cross-border health threats through preparedness and response planning, permanent surveillance and ad-hoc monitoring, risk assessment and risk management. CEAOEF welcomes the opportunity for closer coordination between Member States through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
4. CEAOEF, taking into account the recommendation of the Parliamentary Healthcare Committee, considers that further elaboration on the text of **Art. 5 of the proposal concerning the joint procurement of medical countermeasures** is needed. In this regard, CEAOEF encourages additional clarification on its implementation by the European Commission. In particular, CEAOEF considers necessary that the joint procurement procedure, the competent authority, responsible for assignment, monitoring and control of the joint procurement procedures and the financial implications on the Member States, is further clarified.