



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 8.10.2018
C(2018) 6563 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases {COM(2018) 244}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát recognises the importance of vaccination and that it agrees with the Commission that cooperation at European Union level as envisaged in the proposal is required in the fight against vaccine preventable diseases.

The Commission recalls that under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union the Council may, on a proposal from the Commission, adopt recommendations for the purposes of protecting and improving human health and in particular with a view to fighting the major cross-border health scourges and combating serious cross-border threats to health.

On the basis of this provision, the Commission has proposed a recommendation on combating serious cross-border threats to health linked to vaccine preventable diseases. The proposed recommendation aims to complement national policies and strengthen cooperation among Member States. The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support to the proposed recommendation and wishes to stress that the proposed recommendation will be further elaborated during the implementation phase.

The Commission has taken note of the Senát's concerns regarding cross-border health threats linked to population movements for reasons of migration. The Commission is pleased to have this opportunity to clarify that adequate surveillance mechanisms are in place at Union level to ensure timely monitoring and a rapid and effective response by the Union to events related to serious cross-border threats to health.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Vytenis Andriukaitis
Member of the Commission*