



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2022) 3892 final*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
President of the Camera
Deputaților
Palatul Parlamentului
Strada Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 BUCUREȘTI*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level {COM(2021) 577 final}.

On 11 November 2020, the Commission put forward its plans to build a European Health Union¹, a new health security framework fit for the health challenges of tomorrow. A key component of a strong European Health Union is the recently established Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). On 16 September 2021, the Commission put forth the so-called ‘HERA package’ consisting of a Communication introducing HERA², a Commission decision establishing HERA³ and a proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level⁴.

The Commission welcomes the views expressed by the Camera Deputaților about the importance of cooperation between Member States in the field of public health and the support for the proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures to ensure the provision of necessary medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Building a European Health Union: Reinforcing the EU’s resilience for cross-border health threats, COM(2020) 724 final.

² COM(2021) 576 final.

³ C(2021) 6712 final.

⁴ COM(2021) 577 final.

The Commission also shares the view of the Camera Deputaţilor on the importance of the exchange of experiences and practices at European Union level in order to support healthcare systems in Member States. The European Health Union proposals were put forward precisely to strengthen health security coordination and equip the European Union with tools and mechanisms to improve the current European Union health security architecture, making health security a collective endeavour.

Furthermore, the Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaţilor that it is essential to closely collaborate with the European Medicines Agency and other relevant Union agencies and international bodies. Moreover, the Commission would like to recall that a representative of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and a representative of the European Medicines Agency may participate in the meetings of the HERA Board as observers.

As regards the importance of cutting-edge scientific research and intellectual property management, the Commission supports this recommendation and would like to recall that over EUR 4 billion have been invested from 2007 to 2019 through the European Union framework programmes for research and innovation in infectious diseases research. In addition to a number of past and ongoing research actions related to coronaviruses and outbreaks, the Commission launched several special actions in 2020 and 2021 under which EUR 1 billion were mobilised for coronavirus research. Horizon Europe⁵, the EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme for 2021-2027, will continue to invest in research and innovation to tackle infectious diseases. The Commission will continue encouraging open science and fostering the accessibility of research results, for instance through the Manifesto⁶ for EU COVID-19 research. As regards the importance of stepping up efforts to seize the opportunities offered by the data-driven economy to identify public health risks, the Commission has adopted a proposal for the European Health Data Space⁷. It will provide a common Union framework for primary use of health data (provision of healthcare) and secondary use of health data, that is the use of data for purposes such as research, innovation, policy-making and regulatory purposes in the area of health.

The Commission shares the view of the Camera Deputaţilor on the single point of access to assist Member States in optimizing the use of Union funds. Such service can be provided by the InvestEU Advisory Hub, which offers financial advice to national, regional and local government authorities upon request.

The Commission would like to reassure the Camera Deputaţilor that the measures adopted under the proposal for a Council Regulation on a framework of measures to ensure the provision of necessary medical countermeasures in the event of a public

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation/covid-research-manifesto_en

⁷ COM(2022) 197 final, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2711

health emergency at Union level will respect the essence of the freedom to conduct business and the freedom of contract, as well as the right to property, which are respectively protected by Articles 16 and 17 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Also the principle of proportionality will be respected.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera Deputaților in the future.

Yours sincerely,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Stella Kyriakides
Member of the Commission*