



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies

(Virtual meeting)

3 March 2021

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Nature of the meeting

The second drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 3 March 2021 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by PD Dr Dorothea Stahl, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. Points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft outline

The Chair gave a preview of the main elements of the draft outline and specific text blocks that have been developed so far on solidarity in EU Treaties, proposed regulation on cross-border health threat, tools shaping European solidarity, lessons learned from the pandemic, digital health data and sustainability and operationalisation of EU solidarity.

The Chair presented a suggested working definition for solidarity signifying shared practices, reflecting a collective commitment to carry “costs” (financial, social, emotional, or otherwise) to assist others. This definition consists of three tiers, hierarchically from interpersonal, through group practices to a contractual level.

Members stressed that the other important dimensions of solidarity as co-creation and participation should be reflected in the definition and emphasised the concept of solidarity as

a value. Members further mentioned collective commitment, joint principles, and equity in health. They agreed to elaborate on domains where solidarity is relevant and analyse tools for illustration.

Members then discussed the Proposal for Regulation of the Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health with additions concerning establishing EU-level oversight, monitoring, network coordination, and decision-making bodies, creating national preparedness and response planning, resilience (“stress”) tests of Member States with in-action and after-action reviews, specifying coordination and information exchange for joint procurement procedures, stockpiling and donation of medical countermeasures, inter-linking of the EWRS with contact tracing systems at the Union level and data compliance regulations. The opinion would elaborate on how useful the suggested changes would be and what potential limitations could be identified.

Members suggested several points to be addressed in the opinion, including why solidarity within EU is needed, whether there is a willingness for solidarity on a political level, what is the public perception, and how to make solidarity interoperable.

COM (DG ECHO) referred to existing tools under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism such as the European medical corps or rescEU for which medical capacities are being developed aiming to protect citizens from disasters and manage emerging risks.

Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group

Members agreed to simplify the structure including the following parts:

- concept and the case for solidarity,
- Covid-19 pandemic, lessons learned and experiences,
- willingness for solidarity on a political level and public opinion,
- technical and practical operability within the framework of current directives, legislation and tools.

4. Conclusion

Members agreed to provide contributions to the different parts of the outline to have an updated draft before the next meeting on 26 March.

The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 26 March 2021 via MS Teams.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

DE MAESENEER Jan
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove (apologies)

NUTI Sabina
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
STAHL Dorothea
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZALETEL Jelka

COM

DROGOWSKA Joanna (DG ECHO)
DAJKA Bela (DG SANTE)
VOLOSINOVA Viera (DG SANTE)