



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 (2019-2022)**

**5th plenary meeting**

**25 November 2020**

**10:00-13:00h CET**

[WebEx](#)

[Minutes](#)

The fifth plenary meeting of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (term of office 2019-2022) took place on 25 November 2020 via WebEx. The meeting, which was a non-public meeting, was chaired by the Panel's Chair, Professor Jan De Maeseneer.

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

The agenda was approved without changes, the minutes of the previous plenary meeting of 23 September were approved earlier in writing and have been published on the Expert Panel website.

No conflicts of interest were raised on matters of the agenda.

The chair introduced the new Head of Unit *Performance of national health systems* Ms Maya Matthews.

### **2. Opinion on the organisation of resilient health and social care following the Covid-19 pandemic**

The chair thanked rapporteurs and all members for their work on the opinion. An online public hearing took place on 20 October with over 180 participants. A number of valuable comments received during the hearing and in writing within the given deadline were taken into consideration. The final draft opinion was circulated to members prior to the plenary meeting.

Rapporteurs gave a short update on the final draft. Members agreed to clarify several outstanding issues in the opinion and strengthen the wording of certain recommendations to have the action and an actor identified. Taking into account the changes members have **adopted the opinion.**

The **fact sheet** which will accompany the opinion is being updated and will soon be circulated for members' approval. SANTE expects to publish the opinion at the beginning of December. SANTE informed the Panel how it plans to promote and disseminate the opinion via different COM channels to reach health stakeholder as well as MS authorities on national, regional and local level. SANTE also gave some tips how to disseminate the opinion on social media.

The members stressed the importance to publish the findings of the opinion including also transversal topics in scientific journals and discussed various possibilities. As the opinion deals with a topic high on the political agenda, some members asked about opportunities to present and disseminate it to the European institutions including the European Parliament. SANTE supported this idea. SANTE also suggested to present the opinion to the Expert group on Health Systems Performance Assessment at their next plenary on 18 February. Members mentioned that it is important to disseminate to academics to encourage further research/development; and to policy makers to inform policy making. Members agreed to disseminate the opinion via their professional and national networks.

### **3. Opinion on public procurement in healthcare systems**

The chair of the drafting group and rapporteurs reported on the meeting with DG SANTE, DG GROW, and DG REFORM that took place on 24 November to discuss the way forward and the next steps. The overall comments from the COM asked for more operational recommendations. SANTE stressed that public procurement is a major issue in the COVID-19 pandemic and the opinion can provide significant input to policy makers. SANTE suggested that part of the difficulty with this opinion could arise from not clarifying who opinion is targeted towards – health community or Member states and public procurers. Some members highlighted the Panel's independence and the evidence-based character of the opinion.

It was agreed that further comments/suggestions from COM will be provided to the Panel. One contact point (from DG SANTE) will be established. It was also agreed that a 2 page executive summary with the key messages would be drafted. COM was invited to suggest prioritisation of the recommendations. The public hearing will be planned for the beginning of 2021.

### **4. Possible new mandates**

SANTE informed members about the internal consultation to collect suggestions for future mandates and reiterated that mandates should be linked to EU priorities and policy. The following topics resonated the most:

- Surge capacity model in health care and continuity of care, access to treatment, diagnostics
- Mental health of the health workforce and of essential workers
- Strategy and investment for cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment link to Europe's Beating cancer plan

Members also suggested a mandate on how health systems can address and respond to the EU Green Deal.

They discussed in breakout sessions how these topics are linked to EU policy, why they are important, which main angles should be explored, what key questions should be answered, and who would be the target audience of the opinion.

SANTE took note of discussion and will use this input in deciding the next mandate(s).

## **5. Any other business and next steps**

The chair thanked the members who took part in various events where they presented the EXPH opinions.

Members agreed on the dates of the plenaries in 2021 as follows: 10 February, 28 April, 23 June, 22 September and 24 November.

The chair informed members that the AGM has now a new feature recognising virtual meetings. He also informed them that COM may stop using WebEx in May 2021.

The chair thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

## **6. List of participants**

### **MEMBERS**

BARROS PITA Pedro  
DE MAESENEER Jan  
GARCIA-ALTES Anna  
GRUSON Damien  
KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove  
NUTI Sabina  
ROGERS Heather  
SICILIANI Luigi  
STAHL Dorothea  
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna  
ZACHAROV Sergej  
ZALETEL Jelka

### **DG SANTE**

MATTHEWS Maya (B1)  
DAJKA Bela (B1)  
VOLOSINOVA Viera (B1)