

EN
E-001550/2024
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2024)

1. Following the donation to Africa Centres for Disease Control (AfCDC) of 215 420 vaccine doses, the Commission is preparing a EUR 9.4 million action with the AfCDC to strengthen diagnostic/sequencing capacities against mpox. It has mobilised EUR 1 million to support the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from the Epidemics tool and EUR 200 000 from humanitarian assistance to Burundi. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has deployed staff to the DRC to support surveillance through the AfCDC-ECDC Partnership.

2. The Commission is contributing EUR 462 million to the Pandemic Fund, to support surveillance and early warning projects in ten countries impacted by mpox. The Commission is also supporting the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator launched by the Vaccine Alliance ‘GAVI’¹ in June 2024, and the Team Europe Initiative on manufacturing and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies in Africa. The latter aims to increase vaccine manufacturing in Africa and has mobilised EUR 1.3 billion for that purpose.

3. The Commission and the Member States coordinate the response to mpox through the Health Security Committee. The ECDC monitors the epidemiological situation through its global epidemic intelligence activities and published a Rapid Risk Assessment on 16 August 2024².

The ‘Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority’ (HERA) is funding DURABLE³, which has contributed to the biological characterisation of clade Ib⁴ and developed a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay able to detect this clade. HERA and ECDC performed a joint survey to ensure that the EU has the diagnostic capacities to detect the potential introduction of clade Ib in the EU.

¹ <https://www.gavi.org/>

² The ECDC updated its Rapid Risk Assessment on mpox on 9 September 2024:
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/risk-assessment-mpox-epidemic-monkeypox-virus-clade-i-africa>

³ DURABLE, the HERA lab network, aims to provide high-quality scientific information in record time to support HERA’s decision-making in preparing for and responding to cross-border health threats and assessing the impact of countermeasures: <https://durableproject.org/>

⁴ Clade Ib emerged in DRC.