

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000607/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(11 February 2025)

Subject: Possible withdrawal from the World Health Organisation

There is a close strategic partnership between the EU and the World Health Organisation (WHO). In 2022-2023 alone, the Commission paid the WHO USD 468 million, not including the Member States' contributions. The Commission also negotiated — on behalf of all the Member States — the amendments to the International Health Regulations and the planned WHO pandemic treaty. In addition, health data on all EU citizens collected within the European Health Data Space is to be passed on to the WHO. The influence that the private financial interests of multi-billionaires wield over the WHO is also a source of criticism. On 20 January 2025, the US left the WHO. The reason given for this was the WHO's poor management of the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of independence. The US stopped all payments, withdrew its government staff, terminated cooperation and cancelled the amendments to the Health Regulations and the WHO pandemic treaty.

1. Is the Commission also intending to end cooperation with the WHO?
2. With regard to the pandemic treaty, will the Commission negotiations on behalf of the Member States be stopped?
3. Is the Commission intending to accept the offer of future cooperation with the US as the world's leading medical and scientific power?

Submitted: 11.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 June 2025)

1. The EU and its Member States are the largest contributors to global health financing, including through contributions to the World Health Organisation (WHO), with whom the EU collaborates in line with its commitments and available resources.
2. The negotiations on the WHO Pandemic Agreement were successfully concluded by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on 16 April 2025 and the text has been formally adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly on 20 May 2025. The Assembly has set out the arrangements for finalising the work on the annex on Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing, and for the eventual opening for signature of the Agreement. Throughout the negotiations, the Commission, acting as the Union Negotiator pursuant to Council Decision (EU) 2022/451 ⁽¹⁾, has cooperated closely with Member States.
3. Cooperation between EU and the United States of America (USA) agencies on health is ongoing, including between the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as between the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the USA Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Such cooperation contributes to improving the health of both EU and USA citizens.

⁽¹⁾ The Commission negotiates the Pandemic Agreement on behalf of the European Union, for matters falling within Union competence, based on an authorisation from the Council of the European Union set out in Council Decision (EU) 2022/451 of 3 March 2022 authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (OJ L 92, 21.3.2022, p. 1). The Commission, as the Union negotiator, is guided by the negotiating directives annexed to the decision, laying down the main objectives and principles to be achieved.