

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000664/25**  
**to the Commission**  
**Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)**  
(12 February 2025)

*Subject:* Is there really a plan to merge the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA)?

Report 12/2024 <sup>(1)</sup> of the European Court of Auditors assessing the preparedness for and policies to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic shows that the EU cannot yet be considered fully prepared to manage serious cross-border threats and public health emergencies, underlining the importance of coordinated action.

However, in the last few days, there has been an increase in the number of publications talking about the possibility of a merger of the European Authority for Preparedness and Response to Emergency Health Situations with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. To date, 11 Member States, including Greece, have expressed grave concerns regarding the above possibility, pointing out the risk of undermining the EU's ability to respond adequately to health emergencies.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission really intend to proceed with the aforementioned merger plan?
2. If so, what will be the implications for the provision of financial support for actions aimed at strengthening the EU's health security framework?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that there are adequate coordination mechanisms to help the EU respond quickly and effectively to future major public health emergencies?

Submitted: 12.2.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission**  
(23 April 2025)

The Commission established the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) in 2021 in response to the pandemic, to ensure better preparedness and response capacities against health emergencies.

Given the national competences in the area of health, HERA was shaped with a distinctive governance model, set up within the Commission but with the HERA Board assisting and advising with high-level representation from each Member State.

The Commission has concluded a review of the implementation of HERA and on 26 March 2025 published a report <sup>(1)</sup> that was transmitted to the Parliament, the Council and the HERA Board.

The report acknowledges that HERA has made a significant contribution to reinforcing EU preparedness and response capabilities for medical countermeasures and beyond, but also identifies a number of areas where further work is needed to make the most of the potential to better protect the health of citizens.

To ensure adequate coordination mechanisms for responding to major public health emergencies, the Commission also relies on other tools such as the Emergency Response Coordination Centre <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Preparedness Union Strategy has underlined the need for renewed efforts in the area of preparedness. Funding arrangements for preparedness, including health preparedness under the future Multiannual Financial Framework are being analysed.

The Political Guidelines for the Commission 2024-2029 announced a new strategy on medical countermeasures and a wider EU stockpiling strategy.

The Commission is also pursuing other workstreams related to health security such as the implementation and evaluation of the Serious Cross-border Health Threats Regulation <sup>(3)</sup> and the evaluation of the European Centre for Disease Control <sup>(4)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-12/SR-2024-12\\_en.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/SR-2024-12/SR-2024-12_en.pdf)

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/?uri=COM:2025:147:FIN>

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en)

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU.

<sup>(4)</sup> As defined in Article 31 of the amended Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 establishing a European centre for disease prevention and control.