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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.9.2025)

The Commission and the relevant EU agencies (e.g. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), European Medicines Agency (EMA)) value the scientific input of EU/European Economic Area (EEA) national public health institutes for combatting cross-border threats to health, such as the Robert Koch Institute.

Since January 2020, under Decision No 1082/2013/EU¹, the Commission convened the Health Security Committee for regularly exchanging on the fast-growing evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic and for coordinating the response measures. Minutes of those meetings are available publicly². Furthermore, EU/EEA Member States reported relevant information via the Early Warning and Response System, via the ECDC, and EMA networks, and via the Integrated political crisis response mechanism³. Germany reported via those channels. In return, Germany received protocols, data, recommendations and information about the COVID-19 pandemic from the Commission and its relevant agencies since 2019 until today via the same channels⁴.

However, neither Decision No 1082/2013/EU⁵, nor Regulation (EU) 2022/2371⁶ mention ‘unrestricted’ exchange of information between Member States and the Commission in case of a pandemic.

The exchange of information is done between Germany as a Member State and the Commission. Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to assess which of the COVID-19 relevant information that has been officially submitted by the appointed competent authorities of Germany to the Commission has originated specifically from the internal findings of the Robert Koch Institute's COVID-19 crisis management unit. The Commission promotes publicly available references to scientific information.

¹ The Health Security Committee was provided for in Article 17 of Decision No 1082/2013/EU and, is now provided for in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health, which repeals Decision No 1082/2013/EU (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32022R2371#:~:text=Regulation%20%28EU%29%202022%2F2371%20of%20the%20European%20Parliament%20and,NL%2C%20PL%2C%20PT%2C%20RO%2C%20SK%2C%20SL%2C%20FI%2C%20SV%29>).

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/crisis-management/list-authorities-represented-health-security-committee/health-security-committee-reports_en#2020.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/02/covid-19-outbreak-the-presidency-steps-up-eu-response-by-triggering-full-activation-mode-of-ipcrl/>.

⁴ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19>.

⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2013.293.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2013%3A293%3AFULLL.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32022R2371>.