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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.7.2026)

While the pandemic demonstrated scope for improvement of the European health security framework, it also showed the importance of coordination to protect people's health and Member States' economies.

1. The Commission updated the EU Health security framework to enhance EU-level capacities on prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) to health emergencies. The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority was established, as a Commission service, and the Council adopted an Emergency Framework Regulation¹ that can be activated to ensure access and availability to medical countermeasures in times of crisis. Also, a new Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health was adopted², setting out mechanisms for strengthened coordination and response. Among those, the regulation established a cycle of Member State reporting on PPR capacities³, followed by assessments by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on those national capacities⁴.

2. On the basis of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, the Commission will adopt later this year the second State of Health Preparedness Report⁵, based on the reporting by Member States on their national PPR capacities⁶ and the results of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPAs) carried out by ECDC. This report will cover all aspects of public health preparedness, including management of medical countermeasures, health emergency management and surge capacity.

In accordance with Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States retain full responsibility for defining their health policy and organising their health services. It is therefore national authorities that bear primary responsibility for ensuring that measures are guided by the respect for the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2372 of 24 October 2022 on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level, OJ L 314, 6.12.2022, p. 64, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2372/oj>.

² 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, OJ L 314, 6.12.2022, p. 26, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj/eng>.

³ Under Article 7.

⁴ Under Article 8: Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessments (PHEPAs): <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/what-we-do/public-health-emergency-preparedness-assessments>.

⁵ The first such report, as per Article 9 of the Regulation, was adopted in December 2023: https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/state-health-preparedness-report-2023_en.

⁶ Pursuant to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1808 of 21 September 2023 setting out the template for the provision of information on prevention, preparedness and response planning in relation to serious cross-border threats to health in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 of the European Parliament and of the Council.