

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002409/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (Pfe)
(11 June 2026)**

Subject: Ebola: the next pandemic that wasn't

Ebola is, without a doubt, one of the most dangerous viral diseases. While its mortality rate can be extremely high, its rate of transmission is comparatively low.

Almost 40 Ebola outbreaks have been recorded in Africa since the 1970s. Although some of these outbreaks had dramatic local outcomes, none evolved into a global pandemic. ⁽¹⁾ Recently, however, the topic of Ebola has been played up. ⁽²⁾ The timing is no coincidence: only recently did the scaremongering about Hantavirus come to nothing. ⁽³⁾ What is more, Moderna received an additional EUR 50 million to speed up the production of the experimental mRNA-Ebola vaccine. ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾ However, the WHO has now had to back-pedal on Ebola and, just recently, revise the number of suspected cases significantly downwards. ⁽⁶⁾ This is probably due to the strong resistance from local communities in Africa, who reject the authority of the WHO and its non-governmental organisations.

1. How does the Commission actually assess the risk of an Ebola pandemic in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend to declare a public health emergency now that the WHO has already declared a public health emergency of international concern?
3. To what extent is the Commission involved in supporting the rapid deployment of Moderna's experimental Ebola vaccine through its participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) ⁽⁷⁾?

Submitted: 11.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(24 September 2026)**

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) currently assesses the overall risk of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) very low for the EU.

A public health emergency of international concern, which was declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 17 May 2026 ⁽¹⁾, does not automatically trigger the recognition of a public health emergency (PHE) at Union level.

The WHO also stated that the outbreak does not meet the criteria of a 'pandemic emergency', as the risk at the global level is low ⁽²⁾.

The Union-level recognition of the PHE requires that the threat endangers public health in the EU/EEA. The Commission may, after considering any expert opinion issued by the ECDC, any other relevant Union agencies or bodies or of the Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergency, formally recognise a PHE at Union level.

The situation is continuously monitored by the ECDC, by health experts from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, and by staff of the EU Health Task Force deployed on the ground to support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and so far the risk assessment for the Union remains unchanged.

The Commission supports the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) through the Horizon Europe (HE) Programme. For the current BVD outbreak, the Commission has earmarked EUR 73.7 million under the HE 2026 Work Programme for CEPI.

CEPI has committed up to USD 50 million to Moderna for preclinical work, Phase I trials and parallel manufacturing for potential future trials.

¹ <https://www.zdfheute.de/panorama/faktencheck-ebola-pandemie-impfstoff-who-100.html>.

² <https://www.heute.at/s/who-ruft-alarmstufe-wegen-ebola-ausbruch-im-kongo-aus-120196436>.

³ <https://report24.news/nach-hantavirus-pleite-finanzschwache-who-schwert-neue-ebola-panik/>.

⁴ <https://tkp.at/2026/05/18/moderna-und-die-naechste-pandemie-wenn-der-mrna-impfstoff-vor-dem-ausbruch-fertig-wird/>.

⁵ <https://tkp.at/2026/06/02/millionen-fuer-modernas-ebola-impfstoff/>.

⁶ <https://tkp.at/2026/06/03/die-ebola-leugner-gewinnen/>.

⁷ https://cordis.europa.eu/programme/id/HORIZON_HORIZON-HLTH-2023-CEPI-11-01-IBA/en.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-05-2026-epidemic-of-ebola-disease-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-and-uganda-determined-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON615>.

The FILOVAX project, launched in May 2024 with an EU contribution of EUR 35 million ⁽³⁾, has broadly supported development of protective filovirus vaccines, initially targeting Sudan ebolavirus.

⁽³⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101167138>.