



CPME/AD/EC/14042011/080_Final/EN

On 14 April 2011, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the CPME response to the European Commission's "stakeholder consultation on health security" (CPME 2011/080 Final EN)

Please find below the CPME response to the consultation.

Stakeholder consultation on health security in the European Union

Meta Informations

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Consultation Questionnaire

Personal details

In what capacity are you replying?

on behalf of an organisation/company

Last name

Das

First name

Sarada

E-mail

sarada.das@cpme.eu

Organisation

Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)

Register identification number

9276943405-41

Your function in the organisation

EU Policy Advisor

A. General questions

1. Do you consider that the EU should take action to include threats other than infectious diseases such as chemical, radiological, nuclear and environmental events in its health security policy?

yes

2. Do you consider that the handling of infectious diseases at EU level has been appropriate in view of recent events and developments in this area (e.g. SARS, H1N1 influenza pandemic, implementation of the IHR

no

2005)?	
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3. If you answered yes, in which of the following areas?

Preparedness	no opinion
Risk assessment	no opinion
Risk management	no opinion
Risk communication	no opinion

4. If you answered no, please explain (maximum 100 words)

see question 8

5. Do you consider that the national capacity for surveillance of, and response to, serious cross-border threats arising from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and environmental events should be strengthened by EU action to support, coordinate or supplement the action by Member States?	yes
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6. In you answered yes, in which of the following areas?

Preparedness	yes
Risk assessment	yes
Risk management	yes
Risk communication	yes

7. How should the coordination of public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats be handled at EU level in comparison with infectious diseases?	More stringently
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8. Do you have any additional comment or suggestion? (maximum 100 words)
In CPME's view, the Commission and ECDC were not successful in their role of coordinator during the H1N1 pandemic. In the consultation on pandemic preparedness in 2010, CPME called for their crisis management to be thoroughly analysed (http://cpme.dyndns.org:591/adopted/2010/CPME_AD_EC_300710_094_final_EN.pdf). Thus, CPME would not support a replication of their structures to other health threats without such a review having taken place. Similarly, CPME underlines the need to review the roles of the Commission and its agencies before taking any action that implies a shift in competences away from Member State or international level to the EU level.

B. Preparedness planning

9. Do you see the need for the EU to encourage better national preparedness planning?	yes
10. Should this preparedness planning address any kind of emergency affecting public health (i.e. including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats)?	yes
11. Is there a need for coordination of national preparedness plans at EU level, e.g. by providing a framework to improve interoperability of national preparedness plans?	yes
12. Is there a need for EU preparedness plans to deal with serious cross-border threats other than an influenza pandemic?	yes
13. Is there a need to set up a minimum core capacity standard on:	

Preparedness planning?	yes
Business continuity planning?	yes
Critical infrastructures contingency planning?	yes

14. Do you consider that Member States' health systems are sufficiently connected at EU level to allow efficient coordination for the following types of incidents, whether natural, accidental or intentional?

Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)	no
Chemical agents	no
Radiological and nuclear agents	no
Environmental events	no

If you answered no to one or more points, what should be improved/changed?

CPME agrees that the co-ordination of national preparedness plans could be facilitated by the Commission or its agencies.

15. Do you consider that public health consequences resulting from serious cross-border health threats of a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, or environmental nature are sufficiently taken into account in other sectors at EU level (e.g. transport, telecommunications, energy)?	no
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16. Does the business continuity plan/critical infrastructure contingency plan of your company/organisation consider the public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats?	no opinion
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Laboratory capacity

20. Would it be useful to have a network at EU level of National Reference Laboratories to ensure sufficient decentralised capacities to analyse the following?

Highly dangerous pathogens (e.g. viruses, bacteria)	yes
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)	yes
Chemical agents	yes
Radiological and nuclear agents	yes

21. Do you consider that the EU should provide support to these networks?	yes
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22. If you answered yes, which of the following support measures should be provided?

Establishing a coordination structure (funding)	yes
Organising transport of samples to ensure sample sharing	yes
Quality assurance of the laboratory	yes
Regular meetings with specific reference laboratories in the Member States	yes

Other measures (20 words)

23. Would it be useful to have formal EU reference laboratories (see glossary) for the following?

Highly dangerous pathogens (e.g. viruses, bacteria)	yes
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Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)	yes
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Chemical agents	yes
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Radiological and nuclear agents	yes
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Collection, storage and disclosure of personal data with a view to contact tracing to protect the health of citizens in particularly dangerous situations

24. Would you be in favour of your personal data being collected, temporarily stored and shared with public health authorities in order to contact you if you are in danger of being infected or contaminated?	no
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C. Scientific evaluation and assessment of risks from serious cross-border health threats

25. Do you see the need for better evaluation of public health issues resulting from all serious cross-border threats?	yes
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26. Do you think that sectors other than the health sector take public health aspects of risk assessment sufficiently into consideration as regards the following serious cross-border health threats?

Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)	no opinion
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Chemical agents	no opinion
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Radiological and nuclear agents	no opinion
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Environmental events	no opinion
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If you answered no to one or more points, what should be improved/changed?

27. Do you think that existing structures for risk assessment of threats of the following types are sufficient at EU level?

Infectious diseases	yes
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Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)	no opinion
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Chemical agents	no opinion
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Radiological and nuclear agents	no opinion
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Environmental events	no opinion
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28. Would it bring added value to have EU capacity to conduct risk assessment from the public health perspective for threats of the following types?

Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)	yes
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Chemical agents	yes
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Radiological and nuclear agents	yes
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Environmental events	yes
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29. If you answered yes, how should such EU capacity be created?

Link up national assessment bodies at EU level	yes
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Set up EU networks of national experts	yes
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Link existing EU assessment bodies	yes
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Extend the current mandate of existing EU agencies	yes
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30. Do you think that a single alert tool for all health threats at EU level would be more efficient?	no opinion
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31. Do you think that the existing detection and notification systems for health aspects at EU and national level should be better interconnected across the sectors in order to link the different disciplines (food safety, energy, transport)?	no opinion
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D. Management of public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats

33. Do you see the need for better coordination and management of all serious cross-border health threats?	yes
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34. Do you consider that real events in the past with public health consequences were efficiently managed at:

Regional level?	no opinion
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National level?	no opinion
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EU level?	no
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35. Do you see the need for improved coordination of national public health measures (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, control) among Member States in the event of a cross-border health threat?	yes
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36. Do you think that a coherent risk management mechanism for serious cross-border public health threats at EU level would bring added value?	yes
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37. Would you be in favour of making the following public health measures compulsory in order to prevent the propagation of serious cross-border health threats?

Quarantine	no
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Isolation	no
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Travel restrictions	no
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Closing borders	no
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Medical examination (at point of entry)	no
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Compulsory vaccination status	no
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E. Communication

43. How well are you informed about the public health consequences of the following serious cross-border health threats?

Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)	well informed
Chemical agents	not very well informed
Radiological and nuclear agents	not very well informed
Environmental events	not very well informed

What could be improved/changed?

44. Do you see the need to better coordinate information and communication between Member States at EU level? yes

45. If you answered yes, how?

Make risk and crisis communication an integral part of risk management at EU level	yes
Provide more guidelines on risk and crisis communication at EU level	yes
Support the communication efforts of Member States and other bodies dealing with health measures	yes
Establish networks and improve communication with healthcare professionals	yes
Improve communication with the media, including messages to the general public	yes
Improve consistency of communication messages between Member States	yes

46. What should be done at EU level to improve public confidence in the information provided? (maximum 50 words)

While the principal communication should take place at national level, this communication must be coordinated in order to avoid contradicting messages and thus causing confusion leading to the loss of public confidence.

48. When several sectors are involved in a cross-border health threat, would it bring added value to have coordination at EU level for communication with the public and healthcare professionals on public health consequences regarding:

Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)?	yes
Chemical agents?	yes
Radiological and nuclear agents?	yes
Environmental events?	yes

Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire.