



PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Vision Group**<sup>®</sup>



# WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

21 – 25 MARCH 2022

## **ECDC DIRECTOR: WE MUST BRACE OURSELVES FOR NEXT WINTER**

Even though Europe is currently lifting restrictions, and we see a decline of death rates, the new cases of COVID-19 are increasing again and therefore we must be ready for the future variants - warned Andrea Ammon, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), during a meeting with European Parliament's health committee (ENVI) that took place on Tuesday (22<sup>nd</sup> March).

“We believe we might see another increase of cases in the winter. It might be the same variant; it might be another variant. This is why we have to be vigilant during the summer to see what is circulating to be prepared” - Ammon cautioned the Member of Parliament, emphasizing being prepared for COVID-19 outbreaks and detecting new variants early.

Ammon also underlined that vaccination coverage is still crucial, despite countries closing down centers. According to the latest data, current average vaccination coverage in EU/EEA countries is around 72%, with 52% having had the booster dose. However, the average does not reflect the differences between particular member states, some of which still struggle with low vaccine uptake.

Source: [https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/envi-committee-meeting\\_20220322-1345-COMMITTEE-ENVI](https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/envi-committee-meeting_20220322-1345-COMMITTEE-ENVI)

# EUROPEAN UNION TEAMS UP WITH WHO TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**On Thursday (24<sup>th</sup> March), the European Commission announced strengthening its partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to improve equitable access to quality-assured safe, effective vaccines, medicines and health technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

The joint partnership of EU and WHO is going to assist the African Union and its countries in reaching the aim of increasing local production of medicines – both in Africa and for African people. At the same time, the strengthened Alliance will help the African Union in achieving its objectives in various fields, such as scientific cooperation, jobs and trade.

The financial aid of €24.5 million from the EU budget supports three main categories of activities: regulatory strengthening (€11.5 million), technology transfer (€12 million), and demand consolidation and strategic purchasing (€1 million). Parallely, the EU is fostering its engagement with the UN Human Rights Office (UNHCR) in protecting human rights in Africa. EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen also announced that EU will provide the UNHCR with additional support worth €14.4 million over three years (2022–2024).

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_1970](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1970)

# PHARMACEUTICALS AMONG THE MOST FREQUENTLY INTERCEPTED FAKES

**A new study, conducted by the EU's intellectual property office (EUIPO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), provides an overview of the value of illicit trade in fake goods. It shines the spotlight on the plague on counterfeit drugs and medicines, having severe consequences on people's health and their trust in the healthcare system.**

According to the new analysis, pharmaceuticals are some of the most frequently reported subjects of safety alerts and records. What is more, pharmaceutical drugs recorded the highest number of seizures concerning dangerous fake products intercepted from 2017 to 2019.

The report indicates that more than 70% of seizure fakes come from China and Hong Kong, which become the crucial hubs in global supply chains due to the technological development and the reliance on online platforms.

Experts underline implementing the EU framework linked to the directive on falsified medicines is critical in terms of tackling the scourge of falsified medicine. However, the determination of the conditions for the retail supply of drugs remains a competence of member states.

Source: [https://euipo.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document\\_library/observatory/documents/reports/dangerous-fakes-study/dangerous-fakes\\_study\\_en.pdf](https://euipo.europa.eu/tunnel-web/secure/webdav/guest/document_library/observatory/documents/reports/dangerous-fakes-study/dangerous-fakes_study_en.pdf)

# Thank you for your attention!

ul. J.P. Woronicza 3 lok. 254

02-640 Warszawa

tel./fax: +48 22 749 13 13

e-mail: [visiongroup@visiongroup.pl](mailto:visiongroup@visiongroup.pl)

[www.visiongroup.pl](http://www.visiongroup.pl)



[www.facebook.com/VisionGroupPR](https://www.facebook.com/VisionGroupPR)

MEMBER OF  
**NEXTLAW**

BY DENTONS

Global Public Affairs Network 

