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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS SET TO PROPOSE A NEW REGULATION ON HEALTH DATA SPACE

According to a draft regulation seen by Euractiv, the European Commission has prepared a new framework for the governance of health data.

It foresees the introduction of EU-wide infrastructure and cross-border interoperability requirements. The latest proposal on EU Health Data Room is perceived as a “driver for the European Health Union”. It is also the first digital policy law to build on the Data Governance Act, the horizontal data governance law, and the Data Act, recently proposed EU law on data sharing.

The main objective of the regulation is to make the health sector more efficient, advance scientific research in the field of telemedicine and to push forward the health data sector by encouraging the development of new digital health services and products.

The Commission believes that every person should have the right to access a minimum set of “primary” health data, including data related to vaccinations, e-prescriptions, photos, lab results, discharge reports and more – all through a free access service. Moreover, everyone should have the right to restrict access to this data or to transmit it free of charge to third parties.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVED NEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The European Parliament decided on Thursday 10 March, by 642 votes to 10 with 39 abstentions, to set up a ‘special committee on Covid-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future’.

The tasks of new committee will focus on assessing the response of EU institutions to covid crises, the level of coordination between member states, and the EU’s vaccine strategy. Other aspects to be evaluated include the necessity of border closures, impacts on fundamental rights, democratic oversight of the pandemic response, the effect on work and the approach to vaccine diplomacy.

The establishment of the special committee was listed as one of the political priorities for the second part of Parliament’s legislative mandate, agreed in January by the three biggest parties – Christian democrats (European People’s Party), socialists (Socialists & Democrats) and liberals (Renew Europe).

Similarly to other special committees of the European Parliament, the COVID-19 committee has been granted an initial mandate of 12 months.

EU DISBURSES €300 MILLION INTO EMERGENCY MACRO-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

The European Commission (EC) disbursed today €300 million in emergency Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) to Ukraine. The disbursement of funds has been fast-tracked to help enhance Ukraine's macroeconomic stability in the context of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion.

This is the initial part of a first €600 million instalment under Ukraine's new €1.2 billion emergency MFA programme. A further disbursement of €300 million is expected to take place next week. The disbursement comes following a swift adoption of the Commission's proposal for a new emergency programme by the Council and the European Parliament. The remaining funds (€600 million) will be disbursed later in the year, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the EU and Ukraine.

At the same time, the Commission is working on all fronts to support Ukraine with emergency assistance. This includes both humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance. On 1 March, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced at least €500 million of additional EU funding for response activities dealing with the humanitarian consequences of the crisis.

Full document: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_1670

Thank you for your attention!

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