



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

14 MAY – 20 MAY 2022

EUROPE ON ALERT AS NEW MONKEYPOX CASES EMERGE

EU health authorities are on alert due to the spread of monkeypox, a rare viral infection, after new cases emerged in Europe, the United States and Canada. Symptoms include headaches, fever and skin rashes, which are firstly appearing on the face and then spreading to the rest of the body..

The virus spreads through close contact, both in spillovers from animals and, less frequently, between people. Firstly, it was noticed in monkeys in 1958, hence the name, although rodents are now seen as the probable main animal host.

Transmission this time remains unclear for the experts because several of the cases in Great Britain - nine as of May 18 - have no known link with each other. Only the first case, reported on May 6, had recently travelled to Nigeria.

As such, experts have warned of a wider transmission if cases have gone unreported. Nevertheless, World Health Organization scientists are now carrying out genomic sequencing to see if the viruses are linked.

Source: <https://www.euronews.com/next/2022/05/18/monkeypox-what-we-know-so-far-about-the-smallpox-like-virus-detected-in-the-uk>

EU IS HOLDING BACK HORIZON FUNDING FOR BRITISH SCIENTISTS AS A PUNISHMENT FOR UK'S THREATS TO SCRAP THE BREXIT DEAL

As a part of the EU-UK trade deal, both sides agreed that the UK could apply for associate membership of Horizon Europe, the EU's core program for research and innovation. But less than two years into the seven-year framework of the scheme, the UK has been unable to formalize its participation.

The current situation has provoked outrage in London. The UK's Cabinet Minister Michael Ellis accused the European Commission of unfairly linking access to Horizon program to the long-running spat over trade rules for Northern Ireland. David Frost, UK Brexit Minister, has even suggested the EU may be deliberately breaching the trade deal by blocking Britain's association.

Both sides are continually clashing over British demands to change the Northern Ireland protocol. It was agreed as part of the UK Withdrawal Agreement in 2019 to protect the EU's single market after Britain exited in January 2021 while avoiding a ,hard' land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland that could threaten peace on the Island. The protocol has proven deeply unpopular with Northern Ireland's unionists.

Source: <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/brexit-britain-cant-access-vast-eu-science-funding-due-to-ongoing-tensions-323319/>

NEW EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S COVID-19 COMMITTEE (COVI) HELD ITS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH EU HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Although the first meeting of the specialised committee did not bring about any results, it revealed the broad range of topics European legislators wish to address in the struggle to assemble lessons learnt from the pandemic and prepare future recommendations.

EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides kicked off the discussion by summarizing the problems encountered in the crisis management, including a lack of preparedness and the fragility of national and regional health systems to the current status of the epidemic and the catalogue of new health initiatives presented by the Commission.

Among the topics raised during the debate, the Committee members have been addressing the issues related to EU Vaccines Strategy, the Digital Green Certificate, global initiatives, as well as main crisis preparedness and response measures taken to build the EU Health Union following lessons learned from the pandemic.

It is possible to watch the entire debate via the following link: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/covi-committee-meeting_20220512-0900-COMMITTEE-COVI.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/first-european-parliaments-covid-committee-meeting-reveals-broad-scope-of-topics-ahead/>

Thank you for your attention!

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