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# WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

9 JULY – 15 JULY 2022

## EU PUBLISHED A LIST OF TOP THREE HEALTH THREATS TO PREPARE AGAINST

**On Tuesday (12 July) the Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) presented a priority list of the top three health threats that require coordination of actions at the EU level in the context of medical countermeasures.**

The list includes three threat categories of life-threatening or seriously harmful hazards to health with the potential of spreading across the Member States: (1) pathogens with high pandemic potential; (2) chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats; and (3) threats resulting from antimicrobial (AMR) resistance. It is also worth mentioning that the proposal was presented on the same day, as the World Health Organization (WHO) called for accelerating the development of AMR-related vaccines.

The Commission, in collaboration with its services, EU Agencies, international partners and experts, conducted this prioritisation exercise to select three high-impact health threats to provide and secure global alignment and close collaboration on global health security. Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said that “this exercise is the first step in ensuring that medical countermeasures can be made available and accessible for all Member States swiftly when needed. HERA was established as our watchtower for future health emergencies, and I am pleased that it is now tangibly starting to deliver on this mission.”

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_4474](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4474)

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW REGULATION UPDATING THE RULES ON BLOOD, TISSUES, AND CELLS

**On Thursday (14 July) the Commission presented its proposal for a Regulation on the safety and quality of substances of human origin (SoHO). The updated rules on blood, tissues and cells aim to provide greater protection to donors and recipients, as well as to increase access to innovative transfusion and transplant therapies.**

The proposal, which aims to cover the substances of human origin except for organs, seeks to harmonise the rules across the 27 European Union member states to ease cross-border exchanges, improve patient access to therapeutics and enable more innovation.

The Commission's proposal also seeks to ensure that the Union is more self-sufficient, with access to life-saving treatments even in times of crisis. Currently, the EU imports up to a third of the blood plasma it requires, mostly from the United States, where blood is donated commercially. Nevertheless, the EU remains committed to voluntary and unpaid donation, which it sees as a solution to protect donors from exploitation.

The new rules, however, will have to be approved by the European Parliament and EU governments represented in the Council. The regulation will then serve as an EU-wide guide, whereas the individual member states will be free to have more stringent rules.

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_4403](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4403)

## **CZECH MINISTER: PUBLIC HEALTH WILL REMAIN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES UNDER THE CZECH EU PRESIDENCY**

**The Czech minister Vlastimil Válek believes that cancer screening, negotiations on COVID-19 vaccine contracts, support for Ukrainians, and the European Health Data Space (EHDS) will be the main priorities of the Czech presidency when it comes to health.**

The Czech presidency highlighted the EHDS as one of its key targets in May, when the Commission presented its proposal. Negotiations, however, will be highly technical, given the importance of the outcome, as it concerns the use (and prevention of misuse) of people's most sensitive and personal data. EHDS is expected to bring tangible results in 2025. A pilot programme for the reuse of health data for research in the EU is also set to be announced shortly.

When asked about possible accomplishments in the field of EU Health, minister Válek admitted that he is dependent on many factors, including the approach of the European Commission and the EU member states. While admitting the complexity of ongoing discussions, he also underlined that the Czech Presidency wants to finish the debate on the recommendations regarding cancer patients and screening programmes.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/health-consumers/interview/health-one-of-the-most-important-issues-under-czech-eu-presidency-minister-says/>

# 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)

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