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# WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

23 JULY – 29 JULY 2022

# WHO DECLARES HIGHEST ALERT OVER MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

**The World Health Organization officially activated its highest alert for the spiking monkeypox outbreak, declaring the virus a global public health emergency. As WHO Director-General Dr Tedros A. Ghebreyesus explained, more than 16,000 cases have already been reported, coming from 75 countries.**

During his press conference on Saturday (23 July), Dr Ghebreyesus urged all countries to “work closely with communities of men, who have sex with men, to design and deliver effective information and services, and to adopt measures that protect” the communities affected, as the virus spreads mostly among gay or bisexual men.

The WHO declaration does not impose any particular requirement on national governments or international organisations but rather serves as an urgent call to action. Nonetheless, he urged WHO member states to report events threatening global public health. Last month, the UN specialised agency declined to declare a global emergency because of the monkeypox. Nevertheless, since the infections have risen drastically over the past weeks, WHO Director-General decided to voice the highest level of alert.

It is also worth mentioning that the WHO’s Emergency Committee was initially unable to agree on whether monkeypox is a global emergency or not. As a result, Dr Ghebreyesus made this decision individually, acting as the WHO chief.

Source: [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-07-2022-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-\(ihr\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-multi-country-outbreak-of-monkeypox](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-07-2022-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-(ihr)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-multi-country-outbreak-of-monkeypox)

# EU WINS WTO APPEAL AGAINST TURKEY'S PRACTICES REGARDING PHARMACEUTICALS

**On Monday (25 July), the European Union received a substantially favourable ruling in its trade spat regarding the discriminatory practices carried out by Turkey in the first appeal settled by arbitration to circumvent problems at the World Trade Organization (WTO).**

Brussels has sued Ankara at the WTO already in 2019, challenging the "localisation requirement" introduced by Turkey. According to the EU, this measure forced the EU-based pharmaceutical producers to move their production to Turkey to allow the Turkish consumers to qualify for reimbursement when buying their medicines in pharmacies.

A WTO panel of arbitrators has previously rejected the arguments raised by the Turkish side and urged them to act in line with global trade rules. It resulted in an appeal submitted by Ankara in April, even though, at that time, the WTO Appellate Body was paralysed due to Donald Trump's decision to block the new appointments. Therefore, both the EU and Turkey decided to send their case to independent, non-WTO arbitrators and abide by their ruling. It is the first time for a WTO dispute to test this legal route.

Although the arbitrators supported some of Turkey's arguments, they still agreed with the WTO panel's findings that the localisation agreement was a breach of global trading rules.

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_4670](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_4670)

# HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EIGHT CEE COUNTRIES HAD A DEBATE ON A NEW REGIONAL HEALTH-ORIENTED INITIATIVE

**On the initiative of the Medical Research Agency (MRA), representatives of Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Slovakia jointly participated in a workshop entitled "The 1st CEE Workshop on Public-Private Collaboration for Innovations in the Healthcare", which took place on the 25th of July.**

The aim of the meeting was to launch a dialogue on creating a regional cooperation platform focused on introducing innovative tools that would improve the healthcare system efficiency in the Central and Eastern European region with the participation of public-private partnerships.

As the President of the Medical Research Agency, prof. Radosław Sierpiński emphasized, „cooperation with a wide range of public and private stakeholders both at the national and international level, is an opportunity for our region to make a major development leap, having a significant impact on strengthening health systems in Central and Eastern Europe.”

The discussions regarding the establishment of a Central European cooperation network are going to be continued, among others, during the European Economic Forum, which will take place in Karpacz between the 6th and 8th of September.

Source: <https://whih.abm.gov.pl/whe/news-1/205,Central-and-Eastern-European-countries-debated-in-Warsaw-about-the-establishment.html>

# Thank you for your attention!

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