

EU strengthens its disease prevention and control capacity

- European Union to be better prepared and able to coordinate its response to health challenges
- Harmonised approach to data collection and modelling
- Closer cooperation between EU bodies and national and international counterparts

On Monday evening, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on extending the mandate of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

To generate timely and comparable data, the ECDC will coordinate the standardisation of data collection procedures, data validation, analysis and dissemination of data at EU level. It will also develop risk assessments and maintain databases for epidemiological surveillance and work towards harmonised approaches to data collection and modelling in order to produce comparable EU-wide data.

Enhance cooperation at European and international levels

The ECDC will cooperate with the European Commission, national authorities and relevant EU bodies and agencies to ensure their respective activities are consistent and complement each other. It will also work in close cooperation with international organisations in the field of public health, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. In particular, the closer collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) will include areas such as monitoring and reporting on trends in communicable diseases and exchanging information on unusual epidemic phenomena or new communicable diseases of unknown origin, including those in third countries.

The Centre will also:

- establish an EU Health Task Force of experts to assist with preparedness and response planning as well as with local response to outbreaks, in coordination with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism and other international mechanisms;

- monitor the capacity of national health systems to detect, prevent, respond to and recover from communicable disease outbreaks, identify gaps and provide science-based recommendations;
- organise visits to the member states to provide additional support to the national preparedness and response planning activities;
- ensure that experts and stakeholders, including civil society organisations, contribute to its advisory work;
- provide technical and scientific assistance to national authorities to develop their capacity to detect and sequence the genomes of infectious agents;
- monitor the uptake of vaccination against major communicable diseases across the EU, taking into account the specificities of national and regional vaccination schedules;
- facilitate fighting against misinformation on vaccination and the causes of vaccine hesitancy.

Quote

Rapporteur [Joanna Kopcińska](#) (ECR, PL) said: “The Centre will provide recommendations to strengthen the capacity of health systems. In addition, it will play a role in the development of health service indicators that will help manage, and respond to, transmissible disease threats and related public health issues. The Centre will be better able to provide robust and independent scientific expertise, and support actions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to cross-border threats to health in the European Union. Parliament has ensured that the Centre will continue to champion data protection procedures and safeguards designed to guarantee that its processing operations fully respect the principles of lawfulness, fairness, and transparency.”

Next steps

Parliament and Council now need to endorse the agreement, before it can enter into force.

Background

As part of [building a European Health Union](#), the Commission proposed on 11 November 2020 a new health security framework fit for future health challenges, based on [lessons learnt from combatting COVID-19](#), which includes a [proposal](#) to strengthen the mandate of the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#).

Further information

[Press release: European Health Union: better disease prevention and cross-border cooperation \(15.09.2021\)](#)

[Press release: Enhancing EU's disease prevention and control capacity \(29.06.2021\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Legislative train](#)

[EP Research: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: During the pandemic and beyond \(June 2020\)](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Joanna Kopcińska \(ECR, PL\)](#)


[European Parliament's work on EU health policy](#)


[Free photos, videos and audio material](#)

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