

## Minutes: Steering Board meeting 29 January 2021

### Vaccines Sharing

The Steering Board addressed the issue in line with the Commission Communication of 19 January in view of setting up an EU vaccine sharing mechanism that would have two targets:

- short term measures – focusing on
- long term measures for vaccines delivery to [REDACTED] and through COVAX

The Commission informed that it recently adopted a Communication setting out the decisions and coordinated approach needed to deliver on the four priorities in the Leaders' Meeting on 21 January to:

- speed up vaccination and vaccine supplies;
- ramp up testing and sequencing to control infections and new variants;
- Ensure the functioning of the Single Market;
- **Show international leadership and solidarity with its partners.**

In light of the last priority, the Communication proposed a set of key actions, as follows:

- the Commission to set up an **EU Vaccine Sharing Mechanism** to structure the provision of vaccines shared by Member States with partner countries through a Team Europe approach;
- the Commission and Member States to continue mobilising support for COVAX
- the EU to support efforts to strengthen the global health architecture in different fora, such as the upcoming Global Health Summit.

The Commission and some Members outlined the fact that Member States, as the owners of vaccines, need to be involved in reselling and donations.

[REDACTED] stressed that during the Bazaar process [REDACTED] immediate availability, but that immediate action would require legal and technical work in order to deliver the doses.

[REDACTED] presented the national measures and long term plans for donations ([REDACTED] of their volume), according to the paper presented in December.

It was outlined that WHO and COVAX identified 18 countries that could receive 1.2 million doses of the [REDACTED] vaccine in Q1, therefore [REDACTED] already started working of these 18 pilot countries towards concluding a concrete agreement (between [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the company) and invited MSs to take the same approach.

The Commission called to focus on short-term measure in the immediate and for a coordinated approach.

EEAS informed that the EU Delegations were collecting information and working on mapping of countries that (i) were on the COVAX list, that (ii) were engaging in bilateral negotiating with the companies and (iii) ( [REDACTED] ).

EEAS stressed the urgency of already starting the work on fight misinformation.

[REDACTED] stressed again its readiness to offer secretariat assistance to the EU on this this matter.

It was concluded that for the time being focus should be put on immediate action, especially on [REDACTED], where [REDACTED] health workers have been identified, therefore a need for [REDACTED] vaccines. For this, the Members were invited to check with their respective political level on what quantities each MSs would be willing to share for February, March and April.

A follow up meeting would be conveyed as appropriate to take stock of quantities available.