

Steering Group meeting, 3 July 2020

Procedures

Member States were reminded of the importance of all attendees having signed a confidentiality agreement.

Agreement Commission – Member States

The Commission noted that eight Member States still had ongoing internal procedures to complete before completing their signing of the Agreement. This should be done swiftly, as it risked delaying the whole process. [REDACTED]

Interplay with global vaccine initiatives

[REDACTED]

On the disbursement of funds, it was noted that the Emergency Support Instrument could not be used for third countries, but that [REDACTED] could be an option.

It was agreed that [REDACTED] would give an overview of the work of GAVI and the COVAX facility at a meeting in the near future.

Relations with the UK and EEA

The Commission updated the Board on discussions with the [REDACTED], which was now considering whether or not to join the initiative.

Regarding EEA countries, there was considerable willingness to extend the initiative to them, but no solution to the legal barriers concerning ESI had yet been found. Work would continue to find a solution.

The co-Chair noted that [REDACTED] were likely to approach the EU on this subject as well.

Estimates of numbers of vaccines needed

The co-Chair gave an introductory presentation of some principles and goals which could be of use in determining how many vaccines were needed. This presentation argued for the overall goal to be to protect us from total economic shutdown. Specific targets within that were to minimise death, avoid a breakdown in the health and care system, protect critical infrastructure, and protect travellers and the tourism industry. [REDACTED]

There was a *tour de table* of Member States, with many stressing that these were only initial estimates at this point, and that there were many variables (e.g. the times at which different vaccines became available, the durability of any immune response). Member State estimates varied from 20% to 100% of their population. A rough summary is provided in the table below:

Member State	
Austria (tbc)	
Belgium	
Bulgaria	
Croatia (tbc)	
Cyprus (tbc)	
Czech Republic (tbc)	
Denmark	
Estonia	
Finland (tbc)	
France	
Germany (tbc - assumption)	
Greece (tbc)	
Hungary (tbc)	
Ireland (tbc)	
Italy	
Latvia (tbc)	
Lithuania	
Luxembourg (tbc)	
Malta	
Netherlands	
Poland (tbc)	
Portugal	
Romania (tbc)	
Slovakia (tbc)	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Sweden (tbc)	
ESTIMATED TOTAL (status of 3rd July 2020)	

Update on contacts with companies

The Commission gave an overview of the ongoing negotiations with Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, and Moderna. There had been introductory calls with a number of companies this week (). More detailed information was expected from at least a couple of the previous contacts in the course of the next week. The Commission would work with those companies to get enough information to enable the Steering Board to make an informed decision about whether or not to open negotiations with them.

In response to a request from Member States, it was agreed to have an agenda point in the near future giving an overview of the most promising vaccine candidates.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A dedicated session on liability would be arranged.