

Steering Group meeting, 29 June 2020

Working methods

The Group agreed to keep Friday 1200 – 1330 as its usual meeting slot.

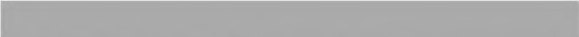
The Commission noted that some companies had been requesting signed non-disclosure agreements from all Steering Board members as a pre-condition for starting discussions. The Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) had pushed back on this, noting the signed agreements, which all Steering Board members had signed, and the legal duty of confidentiality of Commission staff. However, this made it imperative that all Board members had indeed signed this agreement. It was also stressed that any alternate members or other replacements standing in for Board members must have signed the agreement before attending any meetings. Both co-Chairs underlined the importance of the Board's practices being correct on this point.

The Commission would circulate a line-to-take on transparency immediately after the meeting.

The Commission noted that a few Member States still had internal procedures pending to finalise their signing of the Agreement, and noted the importance of the JNT knowing exactly who was on board.



Contacts with companies

It was explained that  companies on what they were asking for on liability – the demands were far-reaching at present (e.g. an EU legislative solution giving producers immunity from liability and lawsuits). The JNT was explaining that this was not possible, and this issue would need to be dealt with in contracts. We would need to be disciplined on this point, and would need to take great care what we agreed to. It was agreed that this should be a point for discussion at a future meeting of the Steering Board.

Members of the JNT then updated the Board with the state of play of ongoing negotiations with the following countries:

- Johnson & Johnson (non-replicating viral vector; [REDACTED])
- Sanofi (Recombinant protein antigen + GSK adjuvant; [REDACTED])
- BioNTech (mRNA, [REDACTED] available globally in late 2020; [REDACTED] globally in 2021)
- Moderna (mRNA: [REDACTED])
- Curevac (mRNA: [REDACTED] in 2021)

The Commission also informed the Board about initial introductory contacts with a number of companies. Introductory meetings had been held with Valneva, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] we were likely to receive initial expressions of interest from at least some of these companies soon. Further introductory contacts were planned with [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Next steps

The Steering Board will meet again on Friday at 1200. The co-Chair asked Member States to give consideration to the question of how many doses they thought we needed to be trying to secure in these APAs; this would be discussed at that Board meeting.