



## CHINA – Coronavirus Outbreak

ECHO CIVIL PROTECTION MESSAGE N°02

### European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

03/02/2020,  
20:00:00 UTC

**Status**  
Request for assistance.

**Event**  
Epidemic

**Occurrence**  
Date: 31 December 2019

#### Situation

On 31 December 2019, the Municipal Health Commission in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China reported a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown cause, with a common reported link to Wuhan's Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market. 2019-nCoV seems genetically closely related to the 2003 SARS virus and appears to have similar characteristics.

On 30 January 2020, WHO declared the Coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). It advised all countries to be prepared for containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread. WHO does not recommend specific travel or trade restrictions at this time.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), since 31 December 2019 and as of 3 February 2020, there are 17,383 laboratory-confirmed cases, including 17 healthcare workers and 362 deaths. Among the confirmed cases, 23 are in the EU/EEA and the UK (ten in Germany, six in France, two in Italy, two in the UK, one in Finland, one in Spain and one in Sweden).

#### Request for assistance

On 28 January, France activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for consular support in repatriating EU citizens from Wuhan.

The Chinese authorities are interested in procuring medical equipment from the EU market including protective clothing, masks and goggles. A message to this effect was communicated to EU MS/PS via the Common Emergency Communication Information System (CECIS). The Chinese have approached some EU Member States bilaterally on this issue.

#### Response

France offered two repatriation flights through the UCPM, one a military plane for French citizens, the other, a chartered flight for French, EU Member States and third nationals.

The first French military plane landed in Istres on 31 January carrying 180 passengers (147 EU and 33 non-EU citizens). The second French plane carrying 254 passengers (199 EU and 55 non-EU) landed in Istres on 2 February. All repatriated French citizens as well as those from HR, EE, FI, EL, LV, RO, MK,

**ECHO Emergency Contact**  
Tel.: +32 2 29 21112  
Fax: +32 2 29 86651  
(10)(2e) [ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec.europa.eu)

RS will remain in quarantine in Istres for a period of 14 days. A chartered flight from Istres transported the remainder, from BE, CZ, DK, NL and SK, to Brussels on 2 February, where their competent authorities collected them. AT, BG, HU, PL, PT, SE collected their citizens directly from Istres.

Germany conducted one repatriation flight under the same UCPM activation. The German flight repatriated 101 EU citizens and 23 non-EU citizens, landing in Frankfurt on 31 January.

France and Germany also transported approximately 12 tonnes of personal protective equipment (PPE) to China on a bilateral basis on the first leg of their respective repatriation flights.

Outside of the UCPM, the UK and Italy conducted separate repatriation flights from Wuhan of 73 UK and 25 Spanish citizens, and 67 Italian citizens respectively. All passengers are currently under mandatory 14-day quarantine in the UK, Spain and Italy.

At the request of the French Centre de Crise of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one ERCC Liaison Officer deployed to Paris to support the Centre from 30 January until 3 February.

The Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) was activated on 28 January in Information Sharing mode. DG SANTE is the lead service for the production of the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA) report, with DG ECHO supporting.

The Secretary General of the European Commission activated its rapid alert and crisis management system (ARGUS) in Phase II (in case of major multi-sectoral crises) on 28 January and a Crisis Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting was convened that evening, chaired by Commissioner Lenarčič. Another CCC meeting is scheduled for 4 February.

## Attachments

- Map of the Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak: Repatriation via UCPM