

- Dear colleagues,
- The Netherlands would like to thank the German Presidency for convening this meeting. Moreover, I would like to thank the Commission for the explanatory words on the recent Communication on short term preparedness for COVID-19 outbreaks.
- We already see figures rising at local level. So this communication is very timely and relevant. The past months have shown that European cooperation and solidarity is vital in a pandemic of this magnitude.
- As Italy also mentioned, the European consultation- and coordination structures should reflect this. **Effectiveness and efficiency are key, duplication should be avoided.**
- The European Commission rightly notes that social acceptance of measures is a central concern, and this supports the importance of a **local approach**. Not only does the epidemiological situation and capacity of the healthcare system differ at the local level, but this also applies to the understanding of society for measures.
- With regard to the taking of non-pharmaceutical measures, The Netherlands is in favor of a **common assessment framework with coordinated indicators and signal values**. As Estonia rightfully said, this supports both mutual communication and understanding and communication to citizens, both pan-European and regional.
- ECDC can play an important role in this by providing **adequate and comparable information and expertise**, complementing the work of both global and national public health institutions.
- The measures in the Communication with regard of the most important thing - **testing and tracing** - reflect the current policy in The Netherlands broadly.
- The Netherlands welcomes further technical cooperation in the field of **interoperability of contact tracing apps** and would like to learn from others on the **effectiveness** of these.
- The Netherlands also advocates European solidarity and cooperation with regard to the **security of supply of medical products**. Combatting disproportionate trade

barriers is part of this. The Netherlands sees an important role for the European Commission in this regard.

- But also the joint European activities on development, testing, purchasing and stockpiling of **medical products**, including **vaccins**. This joint collaboration should be complementary on necessary actions undertaken at both national and global level. The effectiveness of the Joint Procurement Instrument should be evaluated.
- The Netherlands shares the importance of reducing the pressure **seasonal flu** puts on health systems. The Netherlands has therefore prepared for the coming flu season in various ways, including more capacity and public awareness for influenza vaccination. Based on scientific knowledge and historical data, The Netherlands does not consider early vaccination effective and useful.
- Thank you.