

Subgroup on Vaccine Donation
Report of the meeting held on 17 December 2020

1- Follow up on previous meeting. State of play on donation allocation

The following eight Member States in the table have signalled willingness to donate and pledged volumes or share from allocated contracts.

	Pfizer/Biontech	Moderna	Curevac	Astra Zeneca	Comment
EL		Yes, volumes to be confirmed	Yes, volumes to be confirmed		North Macedonia Albania
PT					Africa
FI					5% of national allocation for donation subject to Parliament approval For global Humanitarian assistance
AT			5.1.2a doses for Kosovo		5% of national allocation for donation
PL				5.1.2a	Ukraine Georgia
FR		5% of national allocation	15% of national allocation		Global
SE	5.1.2a	5.1.2a	5.1.2a		
RO					Moldova

5.1.2a

The Commission Humanitarian department ECHO conveyed the political support from Commissioner Lenarcic, encouraging MS to reserve a part of their vaccines for humanitarian beneficiaries and emphasising the need for a coordinated and needs-based approach, offering the support of the Commission (including the ERCC) in this respect.

ECHO has a long tradition working with all Member States match-making needs and assistance in any emergency situation.

EL referred to the situation of refugee camps and enquired about vaccine donation and financial support. ECHO explained it falls under MS competence and it would look into possible financial support –with no commitment.

2- Western Balkan Priority Groups and Preparedness

The Commission Health department DG SANTE informed on recent contacts with Western Balkan countries on needs and preparedness. Western Balkan representatives in the Health Security Committee have been invited to follow Commission recommendations on vaccine strategies and submit their national plans when available. North Macedonia has informed its national vaccination strategy follows the Commission recommendations and may be finalized and sent to the Commission soon. Vaccines will need to receive market approval in each Western Balkan by national regulatory authorities. WB are aligning with EU rules as part of the pre-accession process, in some cases the domestic market authorization could be completed in around 6 days after EMA and Commission authorization.

Serbia and North Macedonia report progress on readiness with logistics well advance. North Macedonia has informed on donation of 10 ultra-cold storage freezers donated by a US NGO. The remaining countries are currently procuring the equipment, or trying to procure it, but the timing of its arrival cannot be guaranteed.

The Commission Neighbourhood department DG NEAR confirmed progress on EU funding for reimbursement of vaccines procured by the Western Balkan countries. Commission decision may be ready soon and grants possibly signed with WB countries in January. All WB are interested in the donations and they would also all be ready to purchase some vaccines if more were available.

DG NEAR is in touch with WB countries who are transmitting preliminary figures on vaccination needs. They estimate their total needs in the first two priority groups of the vaccination campaign at about 7.3 M doses.

The indicative size of the priority groups in each country (medical staff and 65+) is presented in the table below. In terms of available IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession) funding: € 5.1.2b could be provided- pending positive opinion of the IPA management Committee. Depending on the vaccine mix and final price, IPA could cover between 38% and up to 100% of these priority needs. All WB partners are also ready to pay for some of the vaccines from their budget should IPA funding be insufficient.

	Number of doses requested by WB for priority groups	
Albania	5.1.2a	
Bosnia and Hercegovina		
Kosovo		
Montenegro		
North Macedonia		
Serbia		
TOTAL		

The Commission will identify contact points in the Western Balkan to start work on the vaccine resell arrangements. Member States are invited to transmit to DG SANTE and DG NEAR contact points in national administrations to work on the resell arrangements.

The contacts in the Commission are:

5.1.2e (SANTE) 5.1.2e [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu)

5.1.2e (NEAR) 5.1.2e [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu)

5.1.2e (NEAR) 5.1.2e [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu)

3- Vaccine Donation in WHO and COVAX

DG SANTE informed on recent contacts with WHO and Gavi (the COVAX administrator) on possible vaccine donation. WHO and Gavi will probably publish principles for accepting vaccine donation. These principles of general nature is an important step, accepting for the first time contributions in kind, an alternative to financial contributions, and the only possible participation until now. Member States are invited to look at these principles and share any comments, aiming at a joint EU response (to be coordinated in Geneva).

FR referred to the concept paper on vaccine donation that was circulated last week. It has been shared with WHO and Gavi as contribution to the reflection. FR has stressed the importance of readiness in recipient countries and the role of ACT-A, WHO and COVAX on setting up a fair allocation mechanism. Other aspect related to donation like liability and indemnification will require some further work. Gavi has been working on the COVAX Humanitarian buffer, guidelines may be presented on 18 December.

Next meeting of the vaccine donation subgroup in January 2021.