



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)

Emergency Management and rescEU
Capacities and Operational Support

Brussels, 28 April 2020

MEETING REPORT

Outcomes of the 10th rescEU medical task team meeting 24 April 2020

1. Introduction

This document presents the outcomes of the 10th meeting of the rescEU medical Task Team. Representatives from AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SK, SI, TR, and DG SANTE were connected via video conference.

2. Main discussions and outcomes

The objectives of this task team meeting were to discuss the new implementing act on the stockpiling of medical countermeasures with a specific focus on:

- i. Presenting the Implementing Act adopted on 19 March 2020 and its implementation thus far;
- ii. Defining the type of assets needed as rescEU capacities under the current COVID-19 outbreak and the possible number of hosting countries;
- iii. Establishing a tentative timeline for the acquisition of rescEU medical stockpiling capacities in the coming months;
- iv. Defining general technical specifications for rescEU capacities.

The main points of the discussion between Member and Participating States' experts and the Commission are presented below:

- DG ECHO presented the Implementing Decision with details regarding medical equipment that is used for the COVID-19 outbreak and is covered under this legal act. DG ECHO also recalled that the scope of this legal text is broader, as it covers e.g. Ebola vaccine and therapeutics, which was the initial plan discussed in this constituency.
- DG ECHO informed participants that discussion with two countries on rapid delivery had been concluded successfully, and [REDACTED]

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- DG ECHO reiterated the message that rescEU remains a measure of last resort, i.e. a safety net that focuses on long-term solutions; conversely, the recently reactivated Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) is a programme that will be in place for 2 years as an immediate response to the Covid-19 crises.
- MS and PS agreed that, even though the needs the European Union faces today are different from the ones countries will be facing in a month's time, it is of fundamental importance to continue procuring PPEs and ventilators, since the demands remain significant.
- Other capacities that MS and PS are considering as crucial are laboratory supplies, vaccines and therapeutics. However, there was a consensus that it is necessary to wait for the results from the clinical trials before starting to procure them. Regarding the test kit, time is also needed to consolidate different procedures, in order to avoid procuring items used in a handful of laboratories.
- It was decided that, to guarantee maximum efficiency and proper geographical distribution, 4 to 6 rescEU stockpiling hubs should be set up across Europe. Each one of the hosting countries should stockpile multiple items across categories of the Implementing Decision, and not just single items. Several countries mentioned that European producers should be preferred over non-EU manufacturers.
- Regarding items with an expiration date, the general opinion is that each Member States will have different possibilities; for some, donations to charities might be the option. A second possibility could be a virtual stockpile, which, however, in case of pandemic this might not be optimal. Thus, at this moment focus will be on a physical stockpile.
- During the meeting, the following countries expressed, or reconfirmed, their interest to host rescEU stockpiling: 5.1.2a, 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a. 5.1.2a g and 5.1.2a are currently assessing the possibility to host in the long-term.
- As defined in the Implementing Act, all the capacities procured under rescEU should abide to WHO and ECDC standards.
- During the past two months, the Commission received hundreds of emails from private companies interested in contributing to the fight against Covid-19. All these emails have been processed (not analysed!) and forwarded to the relevant DGs and stakeholders in a form of an excel file, that will be shared with MS and PS after this meeting. It is important to underline that the companies are not verified and need to be checked thoroughly. From May onwards, this information will be captured by a website to which National authorities will have direct access. For Participating States this access will be via DG ECHO.

3. Next steps

The conclusions of this task team meeting will be presented during the next CPC meeting that will take place on the 5 May 2020, via video conference.

This CPC meeting will clarify the different aspects and modalities of the ESI and of rescEU will be outlined.

The Commission will replicate the rescEU transition format: an Invitation letter will be sent to CP authorities with and Invitation to submit applications for the action related to the "funding of rescEU medical stockpile capacities", with a first deadline on the 29 of

May. This call will focus primarily on PPEs, medical equipment, and the Ebola vaccine. The preferred duration of the grant will be for a minimum of 3 years, with a maximum possible date set for the end of 2027.

A second deadline for submitting the grant applications will be probably the end of August/early September. The details of the second phase will depend on the situation vis-a-vis the current pandemic and the developments related to therapeutics, vaccines and testing kits.