

Flash Report: Coordination VTC meeting with CP authorities, 30 April 14 CET

On 30 April, DG ECHO chaired a coordination meeting with the EU Civil Protection Authorities to provide update on the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) and on rescEU, and review the state of play of the UCPM activations.

ESI Update

The Commission updated EU Member States and Participating States (MS/PS) on the current information relating to the activation of the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) in the context of the Covid-19 response.

A “Q&A” document is being prepared and will be updated on a regular basis. Furthermore, a Guidance Note will be drafted on the implementation mode of the ESI funds managed by DG ECHO. This will be the subject of a presentation to CP and health authorities of the Member States in a dedicated meeting.

The Commission kindly requests EU MS to submit their forecast transport needs for the upcoming weeks/months as soon as possible. This will provide the Commission with an overview of the EU MS planning which will feed on the work currently carried out under the ESI preparation (a suggested template table is annexed). Note that this is a forecast of the transport needs in the upcoming weeks, and will not be considered as a proposal. The Commission kindly encourages EU CP authorities to coordinate on this with the health authorities in each MS. The Commission would also like to hear whether any EU MS envisages or has any initiatives to collaborate with other MS in the context of the scope of the ESI managed by DG ECHO (transport of patients, deployment of medical staff and transport of cargo). The Commission has created a functional mailbox, 5.1.5@ec.europa.eu, for all questions relating to ESI, for the aforementioned forecast, and for the possible initiatives with an EU added value.

The first Financing Decision, mentioned in the last meeting, has been adopted and covers four actions:

1. DG ECHO - Transport services to the Union from third countries and within the Union – considered specifically for cargo transport (e.g. assistance and relief items). This is not foreseen for assistance to third countries, but may be foreseen for assistance from outside the Union to inside the Union.
2. DG ECHO - To facilitate the transfer of patients – to alleviate pressure on health systems of the MS.
3. DG ECHO - Facilitation of transport and operating costs within the EU and to the Union from third countries for the deployment of medical personnel and teams.
4. DG SANTE – procurement of essential health related products, which has been understood broadly.

In response to questions from the previous meeting, Participating States are not eligible for ESI funding. The Commission’s Secretariat General is creating a webpage on the financing opportunities. EU MS are requested to focus on the abovementioned areas when submitting proposals for funding, in response to the question from [5.1.2a](#).

In response to [5.1.2a](#) question, a data-sharing platform has been created to facilitate demand, needs, and supplies (to match needs with offers). EU MS have received a request from Commissioner [5.1.2e](#) and Commissioner [5.1.2e](#), asking for the appointment of focal points that will have access to the portal. DG ECHO will create a link between the data-sharing portal and CECIS, with an aim to create weekly reports.

In response to a question from [5.1.2e](#), the ESI cannot duplicate what other instruments are doing, rather its purpose is to complement existing instruments. DG ECHO will look into preparing a visual presentation from the [5.1.2e](#) perspective. In response to questions about retroactive actions by [5.1.2e](#), the

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Commission indicated that the first focus will lay on future needs or actions currently under preparation. More guidance will be delivered when the detailed procedures for application will be ready.

RescEU Update

The Commission updated on current rescEU grant agreements with 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a noting that the first deadline for invitation to apply for a grant will be on 29 May, with a primary focus on PPE and medical equipment as well as on an Ebola vaccine. The available materials will be posted in CECIS. Furthermore, all items under rescEU must be in line with EU standards. In response to a question from 5.1.2a, rescEU is envisaged for a long term with the upcoming grants with a three-year preferred minimum time. RescEU is a safety net for any emergency situation,

5.1.2a informed that 90,000 masks were delivered to 5.1.2a over the last weekend, and another 90,000 will be delivered to 5.1.2a during the coming one. 5.1.2a informed EU MS that there will be an increase in equipment on 5 May. Similarly, 5.1.2a will deliver masks to 5.1.2a, 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a. 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a have accepted the offer. 5.1.2a thanks the 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a colleagues for the assistance.

The Commission is also preparing for the upcoming forest fire season. The Commission has sent out all the grants (beside one). EU MS who have not received the grant agreements are requested to reach out the Commission. The Commission is also preparing documents for the first rescEU proper planes with 5.1.2a.

Lastly, the Commission will be organizing the Emergency Medical Team 3 Task Team meeting, however availability of MS will be checked prior to this meeting.

UCPM Activations

COVID-19 requests for equipment

Update on activations for medical assistance, including PPEs, equipment, and personnel: The Commission recalled the 7 activations from EU MS, 3 from PS and 28 requests for assistance from third countries for in-kind assistance, such as masks, medical materials, additional camp equipment, etc. The Commission informed that Civil Protection Message No. 4 will be issued this evening.

5.1.2a informed EU MS that the request for assistance of 14 March will be updated.

5.1.2a and 5.1.2a updated on their positive medical teams' deployment to 5.1.2a, noting excellent host nation support. 5.1.2a updated EU MS that the medical team's COVID-19 tests have come back negative. 5.1.2a informed EU MS that due to the positive developments in the hospitals, the exit date was adjusted to 28 April. In terms of lessons learnt from the mission, 5.1.2a stated that the presence of the head nurse in EMT is of critical importance. The infection prevention team was included in the mission. 5.1.2a reported to be very impressed with 5.1.2a colleagues and concluded that the medical team learned a lot.

5.1.2a reported that they spent more than two intense weeks working together with 5.1.2a medical staff. Good coordination and cooperation developed due to the support of the national authorities and support of the 5.1.2a embassy in 5.1.2a. While the main objective of the mission was to support the medical staff, many lessons were learned.

5.1.2a thanked all colleagues that have supported 5.1.2a, especially 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a as they came at a moment that was very critical for 5.1.2a. 5.1.2a was able to learn a lot from a technical point of view but also from a procedural point of view (host national support procedures). 5.1.2a also thanks EU MS who have offered in kind assistance through the Mechanism. The rescEU support was also welcomed.

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5.1.2a also informed EU MS of an ongoing bilateral mission. 5.1.2a has sent 42 medical staff to 5.1.2a in three cities in five hospitals.

5.1.2a requested information on sending medical teams to other countries through UCPM and ESI. 5.1.2a has sent staff to 5.1.2a and 5.1.2a and informed that some missions were through NGOs or Ministries of Defence.

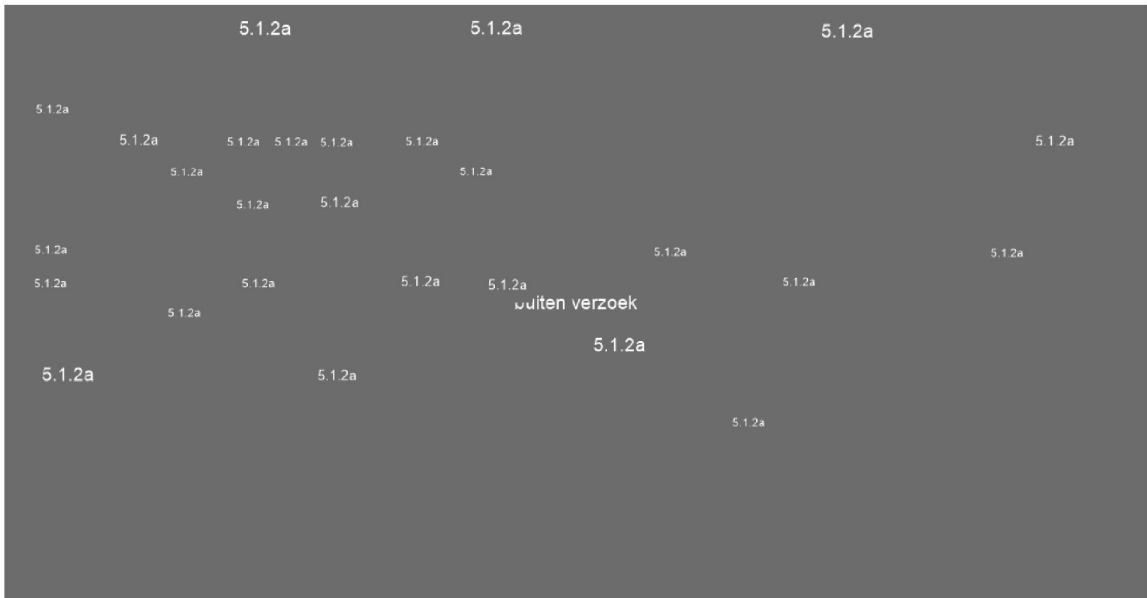
COVID-19 repatriation flights

Update on UCPM activations for repatriations: EEAS is narrowing down on countries where there is a large need for repatriating citizens. The narrowed down list of countries has been distributed (traffic light document and sweeper flight overview). The countries in these documents are the basis of operations going forward. Therefore, the caseload has been reduced to 25-26,000 EU citizens still stranded (without the UK) 16,000 UK citizens are estimated to be stranded for the time being. In the countries where commercial options are available, the EU citizens are no longer considered stranded. Permanent residents have also been discounted.

DG ECHO informed that the Civil Protection Message No. 6 will be circulated after the meeting, with more detailed information on the EU repatriation scheme. 19 MS and the 5.1.2a have activated the UCPM with 410 flights in CECIS (latest by 5.1.2a). MS are kindly urged and reminded again to use the UCPM for repatriations as a last resort. EU MS are kindly requested to provide the breakdown of passenger information for repatriation flights co-financed under the UCPM *in the table provided by the ERCC* to ensure more efficient information management.

5.1.2a underlined that PS' citizens shall be allowed to board the repatriation flights, and have the same rights as EU MS' citizens. The Commission kindly asks MS to notify if aware of other situations where PS' citizens were denied boarding.

The Commission (DG ECHO and DG MOVE) will respond to the question from 5.1.2a regarding the Air Passenger Rights Regulation.



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- EU MS to inform the ERCC whether they would like to continue the coordination meetings on a weekly basis.
- EU MS to inform the ERCC on their transport need forecasts (using enclosed template).