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Sent: Wed 11/18/2020 12:27:39 PM
Subject: FW: Commission Recommendation on rapid antigen tests - adopted
Received: Wed 11/18/2020 12:27:39 PM
[1 EN ACT part1 v11.pdf](#)

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Verzonden: woensdag 18 november 2020 13:27:32 (UTC+01:00) Amsterdam, Berlijn, Bern, Rome, Stockholm, Wenen
Aan: [REDACTED] [5.1.2e]@ec.europa.eu
Onderwerp: Commission Recommendation on rapid antigen tests - adopted

Dear members of the Health Security Committee,
Dear colleagues,

Attached you will find the adopted Commission Recommendation of 18.11.2020 on the use of rapid antigen tests for the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection, for your information.

COLLEGE MEETING: Coronavirus: Commission steps up actions on testing with a recommendation on rapid antigen tests and support to increase testing capacity

Today, the European Commission adopted a [recommendation](#) on the use of rapid antigen tests for the diagnosis of COVID-19. This follows the Commission's [recommendation on 28 October](#) to ensure a common approach and more efficient testing strategies across the EU. It builds on the guidance developed with Member States input and expert advice from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The recommendation provides guidance on how to select rapid antigen tests, when they are appropriate and who should perform them. It also calls for validation and mutual recognition of tests and their results. This comes ahead of the European Leaders' virtual meeting on 19 November on the EU response to the COVID-19 pandemic, following the [29 October European Council](#), where it was agreed to coordinate more on testing methods. The Commission has also signed an agreement with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) contributing €35.5 million, financed by the [Emergency Support Instrument](#) (ESI), to scale up COVID-19 testing capacity in the EU. The funding will be used to support training of staff for sampling collection and analysis and performance of tests, especially via mobile equipment. Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food safety said: *"Testing tells us what the extent of the spread is, where it is, and how it develops. It is a decisive tool to slow down the spread of COVID-19. To increase EU coordination on testing methods, we are today providing guidance to Member States on the use of rapid antigen test to better manage COVID-19 outbreaks. Being efficient on testing also requires having the necessary resources, which is why we are also today stepping up our support to increase Member States testing capacity. Support and solidarity is key to overcome this pandemic."*

A press release is available online at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2047.

Kind regards,
HSC [REDACTED] [5.1.2e]