

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @minbuza.nl]
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @ec.europa.eu]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @ec.europa.eu]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @minvws.nl]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @minvws.nl]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @minvws.nl];
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed 2/15/2023 5:43:50 PM
Subject: RE: Long COVID initiative
Received: Wed 2/15/2023 5:43:54 PM

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your message and apologies for the slow response. We are pleased to see your interest in the planned network.

Thank you also for your questions on the plans. Please find our **answers** in the following paragraphs:

- The call for National centres of excellence could be explained in different ways and could be seen as we have to set up new national centres, while we have different levels of hospitals, university medical centres, general practitioners organisations and knowledge and expertise centres in the country. How do you define national centres of excellence? **We would leave the selection of centres of expertise to Member States. In our view, centres of expertise that are envisaged to be able to contribute to the activities of the network should have the following attributes: provide specialised healthcare and/or contribute to research and possess a high level of expertise on Long COVID; and function as reference centres and provide information on Long COVID to other healthcare institutions in the country. Ideally, each country would be represented by at least one institution. At the same time, participation should be limited to a relatively small number of institutions per country, all of which should have a special role distinguishing them from regular healthcare institutions as regards long COVID.**
- The network will be a closed group in the Health Policy Platform with the main goal to exchange experiences, expertise and practices. What will be the task of the subcommittee of the Public health Expert Group and do not you think that proposals for E4Health projects in 2024 should be discussed in the subcommittee instead of the network. It looks for us that for meetings of the subcommittee (if needed) one national expert on this topic should be appointed by MS or do you have a different view? **We should clarify that we do not plan to set up a sub-group of the Public Health Expert Group (PHEG) specifically on Long Covid at this point. Instead, we envisage that the network of expertise will interact with the PHEG plenary. Both the network and the PHEG could submit ideas on identified gaps and priorities related to Long Covid. Specific financing proposals, however, should be developed in line with regular processes of the EU4Health Programme Committee.**
- As you are suggesting that possible projects in the framework of the EU4Health workplan 2024 could be identified, could you say something more about the financing of the network in 2023? **For 2023, activities of the network might be supported by a Commission framework contractor that can organise meetings, create background documents and summaries of meetings.**
- You call us to appoint the centres of excellence at the end of February, what timeline or milestones you have in mind for the whole process and different structures involved including the RTD part. **In view of the request of the PHEG to first create a background document on the network and share it with Member States, we are planning to extend the deadline for nominations until Mid-March. We expect to hold the first meeting of the network a couple of weeks later.**
- One of the concerns my minister has is that quite some research and experimental treatments have been started but we still do not know if there are gaps in the research area on Long-Covid. We understood that mapping of research projects is taking place but when do you expect an outcome of this mapping exercise? **We hope that the results of this mapping should become available in the next weeks and we will share all available information with Member States. We will also share other relevant info we become aware of, such as the work of the PHIRI project on Long COVID management, and updates from WHO.**
- Finally could you explain a bit further how will the interlinkage be organized between the activities of the Cohortion Study Coordination Board on COVID, DG RTD and the network and subcommittee?. **We are envisaging that the network's meetings**

will regularly be joined by colleagues from the Cohort Coordination Board as well as DG RTD, who could present their work to the members of the network. WHO will also be invited to meetings, to allow also co-ordination with their activities. We plan that all activities of the network will take place under full ownership of the PHEG. This means that Member States, via the PHEG, will discuss and agree the network's work plan. Once specific tasks are carried out, the results will be presented to the PHEG. Our objective is that everything that is done by the network responds to a specific need of Member States, as expressed in the PHEG.

We are currently preparing the requested concept note that will be sent to all Member States soon, together with an invitation to nominate competent centres, and that we hope will clarify these aspects further.

Kind regards

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minbuza.nl>

Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:08 PM

To: 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>

Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e (RTD) <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e

5.1.2e <5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>; 5.1.2e

<5.1.2e@minvws.nl>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@minvws.nl>; 5.1.2e @minvws.nl'

<5.1.2e@minvws.nl>

Subject: Long COVID initiative

Dear 5.1.2e

First of all I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your prompt actions on our request for setting up a network Long Covid as you explained to the members of the Dutch Senior Management Board of the Ministry of Health on Friday 3 February and later on at the same day in the new Expert Group Public Health. This was highly appreciated!

At the moment we are looking for the right competent organisations in the Netherlands to join the network and we will come back to you soon.

Your presentation also raised some additional questions from our side:

- The call for National centres of excellence could be explained in different ways and could be seen as we have to set up new national centres, while we have different levels of hospitals, university medical centres, general practitioners organisations and knowledge and expertise centres in the country. How do you define national centres of excellence?
- The network will be a closed group in the Health Policy Platform with the main goal to exchange experiences, expertise and practices. What will be the task of the subcommittee of the Public health Expert Group and do not you think that proposals for E4Health projects in 2024 should be discussed in the subcommittee instead of the network. It looks for us that for meetings of the subcommittee (if needed) one national expert on this topic should be appointed by MS or do you have a different view?
- As you are suggesting that possible projects in the framework of the EU4Health workplan 2024 could be identified, could you say something more about the financing of the network in 2023?
- You call us to appoint the centres of excellence at the end of February, what timeline or milestones you have in mind for the whole process and different structures involved including the RTD part.
- One of the concerns my minister has is that quite some research and experimental treatments have been started but we still do not know if there are gaps in the research area on Long-Covid.

We understood that mapping of research projects is taking place but when do you expect an outcome of this mapping exercise?

- Finally could you explain a bit further how will the interlinkage be organized between the activities of the Cohort Study Coordination Board on COVID, DG RTD and the network and subcommittee?.

I hope you could clarify some of the issues raised which I am happy to explain or discuss further with you if needed tomorrow or early next week

Kind regards

5.1.2e



5.1.2e

5.1.2e

Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the EU
 Kortenberglaan 4-10, 1040 Brussels
 Mob.nr.: 5.1.2e
 Email: 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl / 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4:30 PM

To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @minbuza.nl>

Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>

Subject: RE: webinar on Long COVID

Dear 5.1.2e

Thank you for your email.

As of now, at DG SANTE, the main action on Long Covid is the publication of a report by the EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH (EXPH), which is planned on the day of the conference, 13 December.

Other Directorates within the Commission are pursuing actions on the topic. The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation currently funds a number of projects on Long COVID. Around €66 million were invested to support large cohort studies on COVID-19 that are following populations from around the world during longer periods of time to help determine long-term consequences and symptoms of COVID-19 infections. These include the Horizon 2020 project [ORCHESTRA](#) (€26 million), and also four Horizon Europe projects [VERDI](#), [COVICIS](#), [EU-CARE](#) and [END-VOC](#) (around €10 million each). Under the 2021 Horizon Europe call, "[Personalised medicine and infectious diseases: understanding the individual host response to viruses \(e.g. SARS-CoV-2\)](#)", six of the funded projects focus their research activities on long COVID (a cumulative EU financial support of €42.3 million).

As regards the details of the upcoming online conference, please find attached the newest version of the programme that includes the confirmed speakers. There will be two modalities of attending the event:

- 1) Full participation in a [WebEx environment](#), which is open to Member State and national authority delegates as well as members of expert groups.
- 2) Participation via a [livestream of the conference](#), which will be open to the general public.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

Kind regards,

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @minbuza.nl>

Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 12:18 PM

To: 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>

Cc: 5.1.2e (SANTE) <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>

Subject: RE: webinar on Long COVID

Dear 5.1.2e

I hope you will find this e-mail in good and healthy condition.

We have got the information that there will be the on line expert conference on long covid next week. Thank you very much for this important initiative!

The Netherlands minister for Health, dr. Ernst Kuipers, is highly interested in this topic and is looking for ways how expertise and research could be coordinated at European level, but of course based on what happens already in the EU. While sending me the request to find out what already happens at your level, he made reference to the letter of the Commissioner to the Health ministers and told me he wants to discuss this topic with his colleagues and the Commissioner at the EPSCO council this Friday 9 December in Brussels.

Are you, or your colleagues, in the position already to share some information before the Council, if there are other actions in place and what actions are in the pipeline. Moreover, could you provide me some more practical information about the on line meeting next week with EU and US experts. (profile expertise MS, how many lines)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!
Kind regards

5.1.2e



5.1.2e
5.1.2e
Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the EU
Kortenberglaan 4-10, 1040 Brussels
Tel.nr.: 5.1.2e
Mob.nr.: 5.1.2e
Email: 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl / 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl

From: 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 4:27 PM
To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @minbuza.nl>
Cc: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>; 5.1.2e 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>
Subject: RE: webinar on Long COVID

Dear 5.1.2e

Many thanks for your interest in the long COVID conference. Please feel free to contact my colleagues 5.1.2e and 5.1.2e (in copy).

Kind regards

On behalf of the HSPA Secretariat

5.1.2e



European Commission
 DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE)
 State of Health, European Semester,
 Health Technology Assessment

Rue Belliard 232,
 1040 Brussels

Functional mailbox: [redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu

Personal E-mail: [redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu

Phone: [redacted] 5.1.2e

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: [redacted] 5.1.2e <[redacted] 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 3:12 PM
To: [redacted] 5.1.5 [redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu
Subject: FW: webinar on Long COVID

Dear HSPA colleagues in the Commission ,

Thank you very much for the announcement of this on line conference on Long COVID. The Netherlands minister for Health is highly interested in this topic and has sent me the request to look for more details about the meeting and a possible role for him or a representative of the Dutch Ministry in the conference.

Could you please refer me to the organizing colleagues of this on line conference for more information.

Thank you very much for your cooperation

Kind regards

[redacted] 5. 5.1.2e



[redacted] 5.1.2e 1.2e

[redacted] 5.1.2e

Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the EU
 Kortenberglaan 4-10, 1040 Brussels

Tel.nr.: [redacted] 5.1.2e

Mob.nr.: [redacted]

Email: [redacted] 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl / [redacted] 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl

From: [redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu <[redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 4:21 PM
To: [redacted] 5.1.2e @ec.europa.eu
Subject: webinar on Long COVID

Dear members of the HSPA Expert Group,

We would like to draw your attention to an online conference on Long COVID on December 13, including speakers and participants from the European Union and the United States of America.

This online conference, organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, will address current debates on the topic of Long COVID/Post-COVID-19 condition. It will bring together experts from medical, public health, and economic disciplines as well as representatives of patient organisations and policy-makers.

The core purpose of the conference is to shed light on perspectives on addressing Long COVID in the EU and USA. For this purpose, this invitation is intended for delegates of national authorities in both the EU and USA. The attached invitation contains information on the draft agenda and includes a link for registration, which is available at:

5.1.2h

Note. Stakeholder audiences and members of the general public will be invited to register for the conference via separate channels, allowing them to follow the online conference via a live stream. We therefore kindly ask to only share this invitation with fellow officers within your own offices, or in fellow authorities within your country.

Updates about the event will be made available via the following webpage:

https://health.ec.europa.eu/events/online-eu-us-conference-long-covid-2022-12-13_en

The conference secretariat at EUHealthSupport (info@euhealthsupport.eu) is at your disposal to answer any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

Your HSPA Secretariat

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