



Proposal for the future of a unified framework in the field of health by the Czech Republic and Hungary

This proposal will summarize the position as proposed by the Czech Republic and Hungary (hereinafter referred to as WE) on the future of a unified framework within the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the Union).

Reasons and objectives:

- The current COVID pandemic has and still is putting a toll on the entirety of the European Union. Analyzing the efforts that were made during this global pandemic highlighted how little each and every one was prepared for the pandemic. While the Union did set up measures that were designed to mitigate the effects, we do believe that there need to be certain improvements so that we are all better prepared in the future. All 27 members of the Union as well as the Union itself need to be more prepared and more organized to guarantee a better progression in the event of a future endangerment of our health.
- We, the Czech Republic and Hungary, believe that the the set-up of a unified framework within the field of health is an inevitable practice. However, in order for us to agree with the enlargement of such a proposal (e.g. EU4Health), we call upon the Union to guarantee a fair and transpicuous set-up. Within this proposal we want to highlight the points that are important to guarantee such a transpicuous framework.

Legal Basis

- In full consideration of the Member States' responsibility for the definition of their health policies, the organization and distribution of health services and medical care, the Union is to complement and support national health policies, facilitate cooperation between Member States, and foster synergy between their programs under Article 168 TFEU.
- The Union should serve as a reference point and coordinator to its Member States, as specified in Article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty (Article 129-EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version)).

- Furthermore, Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the EPPO, ensures that all third parties participating in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights, implying that we demand fair treatment for all countries involved in these policies' implementation.

Proposed Policies

- (1) As proposed by the Union we support the implementation of the EU4Health program. With this we also support the creation of an expert steering group. As stated by the proposal:
The EU4Health Steering Group shall: (a) work towards ensuring that there is consistency and complementarity between the Member States' health policies as well as between the Programme and other policies, instruments and actions of the Union, including those relevant to the Union agencies; (b) follow up the implementation of the program and propose any necessary adjustments based on evaluations; (c) adopt its rules of procedure, which shall contain provisions to ensure that the group will meet at least three times a year, in person where appropriate, thus allowing for a regular and transparent exchange of views among Member States.
 - a. Remark: We call onto the Union to guarantee an impartial steering group. Each member of the 27 states should be represented within this group, guaranteeing the accordance with the sovereignty of the national health of each and every country as acknowledged by the European Commission.
- (2) We call onto the Union to extend and manifest the Joint Procurement Agreement (DECISION No 1082/2013/EU) and Annex of 18.06.2021, which grants the Union permission to negotiate the procurement of vaccines on behalf of the whole Union. We and the other delegates decide to forego any possible negotiations on our country's behalf in favor of placing our confidence in the Union.
 - a. Remark: We expect each country to comply with the directives stated within the agreement. We also call upon the Union to deal with transgression to its fullest ability. Furthermore, the Community and Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and competent international organizations in the field of public health, as mentioned in Article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty (Article 129 - EC Treaty (Maastricht consolidated version)).
- (3) In order to minimize financial burden stemming from potential closer of borders, we call onto the Union to erect 'green lanes' to foster and protect the trade within the Union.
 - a. Remark: The erection of 'green lanes' should be extended to include partnering countries, even when those are not part of the Union, to guarantee that essential trade will not be halted.
- (4) We encourage 'Digital Green Certificates'. In order to preserve fundamental rights, as outlined in the founding Treaties, we advocate for the use of vaccination certificates (Digital Green Certificates) to ensure freedom of movement and economic development.
 - a. Remark: We want to emphasize that the Union shall not restrict the mobility given to each and every citizen of the European Union.

- (5) As outlined by the financial regulations, any individual or entity receiving Union funds must fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests, grant the required rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors, and, in the case of those Member States participating in enhanced cooperation pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the EPPO, and ensure that any other person or entity receiving Union funds is fully cooperating in the protection of the Union's financial interests.
- a. Remark: Furthermore, serious violations of Article 2 rule of law in any member state will lead to the deprivation of the grants, until the breaching state has remedied the situation. If needed the Union shall act as a coordinator.

Concluding Remarks

In order to be better prepared in the case of a future threat to public health, we do support the notion of a stronger and more unified approach. As such, we are willing to compromise and coordinate more closely with the Union and its institutions and accept them as a guiding entity. We agree to pool some of our nations sovereignty in areas relating to the field of health. However, we would strongly advise to respect each country's own individual sovereignty, upon which shall not be impeded. With our final remark, we would therefore call upon our fellow leaders to tread careful when discussing the enlargement of the EU's reach as it may violate political independence within our countries. We need to work closely to guarantee a more unified approach. However, we see the role of the Union and its institutions as a guiding force and should not enlarge their executive reach. The question of public health should not be politicized and used as an excuse to enlarge the Union's executive reach.

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