



The
Federal Government

NEW POLICY PROPOSAL

**on the establishment of a Framework for the European Union's unified action in times
of health crisis (pandemic/epidemic)**

[German approach]

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Context of the Proposal

This policy proposal applies for the date of 19th of April 2021 and is presented by Germany. It is explaining our approach to the control of the future pandemic and that which all the European member states hopefully, with confidence, can agree upon.

Introductory Clauses:

Deeply concerned that the unpreparedness of the European Union to combat the coronavirus pandemic brought health, social and economic hardship upon its citizens,

Expressing the need for stronger cooperation of the European Union on pandemics in the future,

Taking into consideration that every member state have been affected differently and that every country requires different support,

Noting with regret that the COVID-19 crisis has had and still has a cross-border impact on the health and economic wellbeing of the citizens of the European Union,

Acknowledging the sovereignty of member states national health system,

Having regard to the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), and in particular Article 168(5) thereof,

Operative Clauses:

1. Preventive measures: Invest in Research and Development

- a. Convinced that boosting research and development in the health sector is important for increasing preparedness for future pandemics.
- b. Supports Research and Development (R&D) initiatives currently carried out by the European Commission and emphasizes that they must promote innovations and increase resilience, and aids crisis response.
- c. Supports the Member States and the European Commission in further funding of innovative incentives, which will help the European Union prevent and overcome future health crises.
- d. Calls upon the European Commission to urge all member states, which spend a lower than EU average percentage of their GDP on healthcare and public health protection to increase their contribution in order to approach the average in the near future.

- e. Requests the European Commission to create an EU-wide research data-sharing platform regarding the spread of the coronavirus and other infectious diseases that pose a severe threat to the public health of the European citizens.
- f. Requests the European Commission and the Member States to provide sufficient support and funding for innovative companies to help combat future pandemics.
- g. Recommends the European Commission to increase its diplomatic presence in countries that are crucial for the European pharmaceutical sector.

2. **Preventive measures:** Strengthen Health Systems — and Show Solidarity During Outbreaks

- a. Reaffirms the importance of measures of the EU4Health proposal, especially the need to establish reserves of medical supplies for the case of public health crises.
- b. Requests the member states to increase their cooperation with local manufacturers to produce strategic medical products and equipment, such as but not limited to, intensive care medical equipment, personal protective equipment, vaccines and therapeutics, laboratory supplies.
- c. Reaffirms further, the decision of the European Commission to create [rescEU](#) stockpile of medical equipment, which will help with the supply of much-needed medical equipment to the most affected areas of the Union.
- d. Invites the member states to cooperate with the European Commission on the implementation of the “[A Europe fit for the digital age](#)” strategy.
- e. Further, invites the member states to cooperate with the European Commission on the creation of a unified cross-border contact tracing system, which will enable citizens to travel safer in case a new pandemic occurs.
- f. Emphasizes the importance of personal data protection of the potential unified cross-border contact tracing system.
- g. Draws attention to the increased vulnerability of the elderly population and other people with medical preconditions and stresses the importance of the protection of their health.

3. **Pandemic response:** Implementing urgent measures

- a. Authorizes the European Commission to implement urgent measures without the procedure of consent from the Member States in the situations explicitly presented in this paper. Urgent measures are approved in the situation when the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control declares an event a public health concern of EU-wide concern, such concern should follow the international guidelines as set by the World Health Organization.
- b. Designates the European Commission to cooperate with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to create a special committee, which shall act as a counsellor of the Commission in implementing measures to combat the spread of a potential new disease.
- c. Recommends the European Commission to implement immediate travel restrictions on the external borders of the European Union or the European Economic Area, if the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control consider travel from the European Union a danger to the public health of EU citizens.
- d. Authorizes the European Commission and the Member States to introduce intra-EU travel restrictions to limit the spread of infectious diseases.
- e. Emphasizes that intra-EU travel restrictions should be introduced only as a measure of last resort.
- f. Supports the European Commission in the creation of the [Europe Fit for Digital Age](#) strategy and believes that such strategy should be used to effectively combat future pandemics.
- g. Requests the European Commission to create a strategy that would help coordinate research funding for any future public health threats.
- h. Emphasizes that only vaccines and therapeutics approved by the European Medicines Agency shall be used to combat public health threats.

4. Pandemic Response: Subsequent measures

- a. Authorizes the European Commission to coordinate funding and research into medical treatments and vaccines.
- b. Supports the actions of the Member States to create additional projects in order to reinforce the effort of the European Commission.
- c. Affirming the [Joint Procurement Scheme](#), the European Commission should collectively purchase medical countermeasures in possible future pandemics.

- d. Draws the attention to the "*Digital Green Certificate*", which provided a suitable solution for restoring freedom of movement for the EU citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- e. Recommends the European Commission to draw from the success of the "*Digital Green Certificate*" to simplify the conditions of movement of people with the use of similar certificates for people vaccinated with EMA-approved vaccines or for those with other proof of health.
- f. Emphasizes the importance of the continuous flow of goods and services in the European Union and the European Economic Area.
- g. Requests the European Commission to implement "[green lanes](#)" in accordance with realistic guidelines to ensure a continuous flow of goods and services.

5. Pandemic response: Supportive measures

- a. Emphasizes the importance of the law of compliance for the provision of EU grants as stated in REGULATION (EU) 2021/522 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 March 2021.
- b. Emphasizes further that vaccines are not an ideology, but rather a common strategy aiming at lessening the burdens of a pandemic and returning to normality.
- c. Emphasizes further the principles of solidarity and recommends that the "70/30 principle of vaccine distribution" remains in place.
- d. Supports the idea promoted in the Position Papers of other Member States to boost the economies of the European Union in the form of financial injections after future pandemics.
- e. Emphasizes that border closures might have a stronger economic and social impact on some Member States.
- f. Encourages the European Commission to create additional support plans for the Member States strongly economically and socially affected by border closures in case they are implemented.

Additional Sources:

1. “10 Things the EU Is Doing to Fight COVID-19 and Ensure Recovery.” *Consilium*, 16 Apr. 2021, www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/10-things-against-covid-19/.
2. DRAGUET, Vincent. “EU4Health 2021-2027 – a Vision for a Healthier European Union.” *Public Health - European Commission*, 9 Apr. 2021, ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en.