

BACKGROUND PAPER

Meeting 'Towards a Coalition for Vaccination'¹

Brussels, 04 March 2019

Objectives

1. **Kick-off a "Coalition for Vaccination"**, as requested in the Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases.
2. **Discuss and agree on the objectives/mission statement, membership, and activities** of a "Coalition for Vaccination".

Topics for discussion

1. Objectives of the Coalition

In line with the Council Recommendation, this Coalition brings together European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students' associations in the field, to commit to delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths and exchanging best practice. The Coalition will discuss how it could contribute to obtain high vaccination coverage in the population and among health professionals through joining forces of different health professionals associations. Members of the coalition will cooperatively work on agreed activities. The work carried out by the Coalition at EU level needs to be transposed and replicated at national level.

2. Proposed mission statement

- (i) The Coalition for Vaccination is an alliance of EU health professional associations which engage in joining efforts to increase confidence in and improved uptake of vaccines by citizens.
- (ii) The Coalition will also pay particular attention to confidence and uptake among health professionals.
- (ii) Member associations of the Coalition mobilize and empower national associations and networks of advocates to deliver accurate and transparent information on vaccines and their safety to the general public and citizens interested in vaccination.
- (iii) The Coalition promotes broad access to vaccination; strengthen training, engagement and vaccine uptake among healthcare workers; and leverage the impact of vaccination policies.
- (iv) The Coalition does make a public commitment for vaccination and call for universal vaccination in order to eliminate vaccine preventable diseases.

3. Membership of the Coalition

¹ According to the Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases, the Commission intends to 'Convene a Coalition for Vaccination to bring together European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students' associations in the field, to commit to delivering accurate information to the public, combating myths and exchanging best practice.'

In line with the Council Recommendation, this Coalition brings together 'European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students' associations in the field'. Other stakeholders with relevant interests and activities could be invited to join the Coalition, with a view to maximizing the impact of such a network.

3. Operational aspects of the Coalition

In the interest of utmost visibility of the Coalition the EU's health policy platform could be used to ensure proper flow and exchange of information and communication activities of the Coalition, also in between the meetings. The Commission will monitor the implementation of activities and organizing annual meetings of the Coalition. The members of the Coalition are invited to pursue the actions agreed at EU level also at the national level.

4. Potential members of the coalition

- *Government agencies and academics: tbd*
- *Health professionals umbrella organizations*
- *Young students/professionals health associations*
- *NGOs and targeted representatives of the General Public: tbd*
- *International organisations*

5. Possible areas for action and priority activities

- **Enhance effectiveness and targeting of communication activities and media relations;**
 - Collaborate to identify potential refusal and resistance to vaccination and to implement strategies that build trust and respond to adverse events and rumours;
 - Improve health professionals abilities to communicate about the benefits and risks of vaccination, following specific trainings on communication
 - Expand the presence of health professionals on social media, helping to reply to fake news
 - Establish and use communication channels between partner organisations on a regular basis at EU, national and local level to quickly reach people and deliver messages through the Coalition, a trusted source;
- **Improve vaccination education and training of health care workers;**
 - Advocate and facilitate development, implementation and monitoring of vaccination training in medical curricula and continuous medical training for all health care workers, working closely with national health care professionals and student associations
- **Enhance vaccination coverage of health care workers;**
 - Advocate and facilitate set-up, implementation and monitoring of specific vaccination programmes for health care workers, working closely with national, regional and local health providers
- **Advocate for broaden access to vaccination;**

- Advocate and facilitate involvement of all relevant health care practitioners in national and/or regional vaccination services;
- Advocate and facilitate introduction of routine checks of vaccination status and regular opportunities to vaccinate across different stages of life

Format

This meeting will be organized as a one-day event, chaired by SANTE. The event is by invitation only to keep the discussions focused and outcome-oriented

Expected outcome

1. Establishment of a "Coalition for Vaccination"
2. Agreement on objectives/mission statement, membership, and activities of the Coalition and production of the first statement

Participants

DG SANTE, other Commission services (EMPL, EAC, RTD, JRC, Communication), EMA, ECDC, WHO, UNICEF representatives of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, health specialists associations.