

General premises

- **The aim of the meeting** is to discuss in an open way good practices, but also problems and difficulties in the field of European bio-preparedness. Hence, no official and binding positions of Member States or participating institutions and entities are required.
- The first day of the seminar (24th July) is dedicated to representatives from public authorities, European institutions, agencies and bodies. The private sector and other relevant actors will participate in the debate on 25th July
- Two parallel **workshops** will be organised each day. The first workshop will address *Bio-safety, bio-security and personnel security in Europe*. The second workshop will be concerned primarily by the *European capacity to respond to bio-threat*.
- The **major questions** for the discussion are the following:
 - What actions should be taken at the European level to prevent and eventually respond to bio-threat?
 - What should be done at the national level?
 - How the EU (including the Commission) could help the Member States to improve preparedness and response to bio-threats?
- **Basic premises** for the discussions should be:
 - Make sure that existing legislation and identified best practices are appropriately applied in the Member States while avoiding actions which could overlap or conflict with ongoing initiatives (however, EU can bring an added value to make some WHO guidelines and suggestions binding, if considered appropriate);
 - New legislation is the last tool in the range of numerous other tools such as peer evaluations; awareness raising campaigns, supportive programmes backed by finances, etc.;

- Using existing structures (particularly DG SANCO structures) for implementing new policy suggestions and rather associating "new groups of people" to the existing structures (e.g., bringing closer the law enforcement (JLS), customs (TAXUD) and first responders to crises (ENV) with epidemiological communities); all this four elements should be associated and involved in the four strands of work when tackling bio-terrorism: prevention, protection, response and to certain extent pursuit;
- Any actions and measures which would result from the policy on bio-preparedness should not inflict costs which would not be proportionate, but should be sustainable over time and an appropriate time for implementation would be required. To identify the right level of costs and the length of implementation is possible only through an intensive discussion with relevant actors and parties concerned in an intensive *Public Private Security Dialogue*;
- European Council has agreed an all hazard approach, but particularly careful attention should be paid to the use or rather misuse of bio-substances by terrorists.