

Discussion paper Workshop 2: European capacity to respond to bio-threat

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Subjects for discussion:

A. Detection technologies

Detection tools can be used for early warning or for the first responders to identify what one is dealing with. In the coming months, we plan to publish a Green Paper on detection technologies in the work of law enforcement, customs and other security authorities. The paper will aim at improving the detection capacity of these authorities, including the field of bio-preparedness. Moreover, it should help to transform research into practical and usable tools.

One other problem which we identified is the possibility of testing these tools in Europe, particularly in relation to very dangerous bio-substances. The possibility exists in Russia and the US, but not for companies in Europe. Should Europe have this capacity?

Another issue of concern is identification of good quality tools. This may require preparation of a certification scheme for detection tools at the European level.

Should the EU develop Community detection capacity (e.g. Bio community teams equipped and trained with mobile detection technology)?

B. Response

Several concerns can be identified:

1. *The laboratory capacity*, mobility of laboratories and intervention teams in the non-military sector, as mentioned before (early identification of substances).

2. Is it possible to re-direct focus from vaccines and their stockpiling *to therapeutic treatment and prophylactics? If, not how can we strike the right balance to ensure a balanced biopreparedness? What are the major threats we need to have a bio-preparedness capacity against?* Interaction with the private sector is crucial in this regard.

3. Third, the interaction with the private sector as well as the Member States is also essential in regard to the following issue:

Some companies may have a capacity to produce vaccines and/or therapeutic agents for rare, but very dangerous bio-hazards. Such an example may be the third generation smallpox vaccines. However, from an economic perspective it might not be possible to develop vaccines or prophylactics for the industry as it is not "profitable" without some sort of *public private business model. What should such a business model entail?*