ESIP Press release

Preventing and Managing Shortages of Medical Devices and Personal Protective Equipment

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The **European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)**, representing statutory social security institutions across the Union, in Switzerland and in the UK, **welcomes the reinforced European commitment to secure continuous supply of medicines, medical devices (MD) and personal protective equipment (PPE).**

"The COVID-19 crisis, especially at the beginning of the outbreak, had dramatic consequences on the supply chains across the EU. Export bans, requisitions and excessive stockpiling not only undermined the correct functioning of the internal market but also challenged the EU core principle of solidarity" said Ilka Wölfle, ESIP President.

In light of the lessons learned from COVID-19, ESIP supports the EU initiatives to prevent and mitigate shortages and outlines proposals for **securing supply of MD and PPE**. This new paper builds upon ESIP's position on medicines shortages and takes stock of the measures specific to medical devices in the legislative proposals on Building an EU Health Union.

Monitoring and Reporting

Building on the Clearing House for COVID-19 medical equipment, ESIP welcomes the EU commitment to monitor availability and secure supply of MD in the proposed Regulation on a reinforced role for the EMA. Consideration should be given to making the **Steering Group on Medical Devices a full equivalent of the Steering Group on Medicinal Products**.

Common European stockpiling

ESIP calls for the **continuation of common EU stockpiling** as a concrete expression of EU solidarity. Lists of critical MD should be established based on epidemiological data and should include testing and vaccination equipment.

Joint Procurement

ESIP believes that the Joint Procurement mechanism should be **further developed beyond pandemic contexts and before shortages occur**, while maximising Member States' options to participate.

Scale up Production

A **legal and technical framework for emergency production** of essential MD and PPE should be established at EU level, coupled with coordinated production plans and based on an EU-wide mapping of production capacities.

Mutual recognition of medical devices

ESIP welcomes a **coordinated approach to the quality and mutual recognition of MD** based on guidance from the new EU network of reference laboratories under the supervision of the ECDC. Such a mechanism would alleviate pressure on healthcare systems and ensure the smooth functioning of the single market.

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