



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 September 2013  
(OR. en)**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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**Subject:** Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 2119/98/EC (**first reading**)  
- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)  
= Statement

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**Statement by the Commission**

Where a risk assessment concerning a serious cross border threat to health falls outside the mandates of the agencies of the Union, the Commission undertakes obtaining such a risk assessment by means of expert groups.

The Commission will, as a priority, have recourse to the Scientific Committees established by Commission Decision 2008/721/EC of 5 August 2008 setting up an advisory structure of Scientific Committees and experts in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment and repealing Decision 2004/210/EC.

Where the specific expertise needed is not immediately available in the advisory structures of Scientific Committees and where the urgency so requires, the Commission will inform without delay the Member States and relevant scientific bodies about the particular expertise needed to help identify the experts it is looking for. The Commission will then appoint experts to contribute to the risk assessment needed.

The Commission will ensure the independence of the experts providing this assessment, in accordance with its established internal rules.

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