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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of EPSCO (Health) of 16 June 2026: Update on the recent Ebola Bundibugyo Virus (BVD) outbreak in Central Africa:
- Information from the Presidency

Update on recent Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD) outbreak in Central Africa

On 17 May 2026 the World Health Organization (WHO) determined the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Bundibugyo virus to be a public health emergency of international concern under the International Health Regulations (IHR) and provided recommendations. The WHO, along with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, has published a Continental Preparedness and Response Plan to strengthen preparedness, impact mitigation and outbreak response and management efforts.

As of 8 June, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has reported a total of 550 confirmed cases, including 101 confirmed related deaths, and 309 individuals hospitalised in isolation. Uganda has reported a total of 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

The European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is closely monitoring the situation and has assessed the infection risks for the population in the EU/EEA as very low. There are zero confirmed or imported cases of Ebola reported in Europe as of 8 June 2026. The ECDC recommends that EU/EEA countries strengthen preparedness measures for the possible detection of imported cases. This includes being able to rapidly identify and isolate suspected and confirmed cases, carry out contact tracing, and apply appropriate infection prevention and control measures.

The ECDC also recommends increasing awareness among healthcare professionals and travellers returning from or traveling to the affected countries, reviewing testing capacity and diagnostic procedures, and ensuring that healthcare settings have appropriate procedures, trained staff and equipment for the safe management of suspected and confirmed cases.

The Commission is working closely with Member States through the Health Security Committee (HSC) to keep them informed about the latest developments and to coordinate approaches on prevention, preparedness and response. On 22 May, the HSC issued an opinion on a common EU approach for the outbreak, including guidance on precautionary measures as well as recommendations on exit screening in line with the WHO recommendations under the International Health Regulations and the ECDC risk assessment.

The Cyprus Presidency pays particular attention to the current epidemiological situation in Central Africa. This is in line with the Presidency's priority to address emerging health threats and ensure the EU's preparedness. To this end, on 1 June 2026, the Cyprus Presidency decided to use the Integrated Political Crisis Response Mechanism (IPCR) in monitoring mode, to support the exchange of information among Member States and the institutions through a dedicated Ebola page on the IPCR platform.

On 5 June 2026, the Cyprus Presidency organised an informal videoconference of Ministers of Health on the recent Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD) outbreak in Central Africa, with a focus on national preparedness measures, EU coordination, and possible support to affected countries. The Presidency invited representatives of the WHO and the ECDC to give introductory statements outlining the current situation and ongoing response measures. EFTA countries were invited to attend the meeting.

During the meeting Member States reiterated the need for a coordinated EU approach in line with recommendations from the WHO, the ECDC and the HSC, notably focussing on effective exit screening in affected countries and ensuring preparedness in the EU. Member States supported continued monitoring, coordination and information sharing in existing fora. Member States also referred to national preparedness measures undertaken, including information to passengers and the general public (in particular strengthened protocols in countries having direct flights from/to affected areas) as well as early detection, isolation and treatment at health care facilities. There was also support for assisting affected countries and for efforts at containing the outbreak at its source.