EU Treaty of Lisbon – Art. 168 (Extract)

…Union action shall cover the fight against the major health scourges, … early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health. 

…

The Union shall encourage cooperation between the Member States in the areas referred to in this Article and, if necessary, lend support to their action. It shall in particular encourage cooperation between the Member States to improve the complementarity of their health services in cross-border areas.

…
EU Health Security Committee

Cooperation and coordination body by the Health Ministers and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection and its terms of reference are to:

- exchange information on health-related threats from acts of terrorism or any deliberate release of biological or other agents with intent to harm health;
- share information and experience on preparedness and response plans and crisis management strategies;
- be able to communicate rapidly in case of health-related crises;
- advise Health Ministers and the European Commission services on preparedness and response as well as on coordination of emergency planning at EU level;
- share and coordinate health-related crisis responses by Member States and the Commission;
- facilitate and support coordination and cooperation efforts and initiatives undertaken at EU and international level and help and contribute to their implementation at national level.
EU Health Security Committee

Strategic Work Plan 2008-2010

Specific objectives

- Develop threat assessment by Member States in Health Security Committee on Chemical, Biological and Radio-nuclear agents;
- Timely detection, alerting and distribution of information to relevant stakeholders;
- Integrate scientific advice in the management of emergencies, through the consultation of groups of experts and committees on risk assessment and examination of the scientific and technical basis for options for response;
- Good liaison systems between the Member States, the European Commission, the Community agencies as well as international organisations and third countries, to ensure mutual information on measures envisaged and coordination of such measures.
EU Cooperation in Health Security: Achievements

- Rapid Alert System for Biological and Chemical Attacks and Threats (RAS BICHAT);
- List of biological agents that might be used for terrorist attacks;
- Platform for laboratory cooperation;
- Clinical guidelines for case recognition and management (twelve adopted and published);
- European Medicines Agency’s (EMA) guidance on medicines and vaccines for treatment;
- Improved inter-operability of emergency plans;
EU Cooperation in Health Security: Achievements (continued)

- Network of experts on risk assessment of public health aspects of toxic chemicals and chemical threats;
  - communication through RAS CHEM
- EMA guidance on the use of antidotes to agents of chemical terrorism;
- Modelling of outbreaks and sharing of data for simulations;
- Directory of experts for interventions-assistance;
- EU wide exercises to test communication systems and preparedness planning.
Generic Preparedness and Response Planning (COM (2005) 605)

- Information management (surveillance, monitoring, intelligence, sampling, detection, diagnosis, analysis, correlation, identification)
- Communications (systems, procedures, command and control, obligations for information and consultation, media, expert groups, public)
- Scientific advice (procurement, setting criteria and triggers in support of actions, determine corresponding actions and the resources and ways to implement them)
- Cross-sector preparedness (bridging public health, civil protection and law enforcement)
Generic Preparedness and Response Planning (COM (2005) 605) (continued)
Priority Items for the future Work on Health Security

- Further progressing of the framework for cooperation on Health Security;
- Further development of emergency preparedness planning for inter-sector crisis response;
- Further exercises to test communication channels, interoperability of emergency plans and coordination of response measures to a crisis situation;
- Further strengthening of international cooperation.