



**European Union
Statement**

**WHO
72nd World Health Assembly
(20-28 May 2019)**

Agenda item – Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

Geneva, 24 May 2019

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

WHO
72nd World Health Assembly
(20-28 May 2019)

Agenda item – Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

EU Statement

Honourable Chair,

Distinguished Director-General,

Colleagues,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

In the case of the next influenza pandemic, the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework guarantees access to vaccines, medicines and diagnostics in all countries in the world, especially those most in need. This is why the continued functioning of both the GISRS influenza laboratory network and the PIP Framework is of high importance to the EU and its Member States.

* Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The basis of the pandemic influenza preparedness is in continued monitoring and sharing of influenza viruses by the GISRS laboratory network. The changing international legal environment has created potential challenges in sharing of influenza viruses and legal uncertainty as regards the functioning of the PIP Framework. We support the steps included in the decision in this agenda item to collect information on the functioning of virus sharing to understand the situation better.

We also welcome the change to the footnote of Annex 2 of the PIP Framework **as presented by Australia**, as we believe it contributes to improved **and fairer** benefit sharing under the Framework.

Finally, we call on the Secretariat to continue liaising with the CBD secretariat to work on the open questions and the way forward.