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## Europe in the pandemic: research and innovation for a more resilient health system

Video conference on 7 September 2020 – programme

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Conference of Chairpersons of Committees on Health, Research and Digital Affairs from the national parliaments and the European Parliament as part of the Parliamentary Dimension of Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU

- 14:00 hrs**                      **Welcome and opening remarks by Thomas Oppermann,  
Vice-President of the German Bundestag**
- 14:05 hrs**                      **Session 1**  
**Solidarity and sovereignty: for a more resilient health system in Europe**  
Chaired by: **Erwin Rüddel**  
Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Health
- Keynote statement: **Sandra Gallina**  
Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
- Keynote statement: **Dr Peter Liese**  
Member of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Keynote statement: **Dr Andrea Ammon**  
Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- 14:30 hrs**                      **Discussion**
- Contributors:
- Manuel Höferlin**  
Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on the Digital Agenda
- Manuel Pizarro Castro**  
Substitute member of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and co-author of a paper on EU health policy issued in light of the pandemic by several Members of the European Parliament
- Possible points for discussion:*
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*What lessons should be drawn from the COVID-19 pandemic for the health policy of the EU and its member states? How can the response to a “second wave” be improved?*  
*Should the EU member states cooperate more closely on health matters? In what areas might this be constructive?*  
*What measures could provide the EU and its member states with a greater degree of sovereignty in handling health matters?*  
*How can digital options for overcoming the crisis be used more effectively?*

**16:00 hrs**

Break

**16:15 hrs**

**Session 2**

**Cross-border cooperation in health research and European research funding to support sustainable crisis management**

Chaired by: **Dr Ernst Dieter Rossmann**

Chairman of the German Bundestag’s Committee on Education, Research and Technology Assessment

Keynote statement: **Jean-Eric Paquet**

Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Keynote statement: **Dr Petra de Sutter**

Chair of the European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Keynote statement: **Professor Christian Drosten**

Director of the Institute of Virology at Berlin’s Charité hospital

**16:40 hrs**

**Discussion**

*Possible points for discussion:*

*What measures could help further strengthen health research in the EU?*

*Are the existing research networks in the EU sufficient in terms of the exchange of knowledge on COVID-19 and for fighting future pandemics?*

*Which areas of research should receive targeted funding in terms of fighting COVID-19 and future pandemics?*

*How can better use be made of the digital options in this area?*

**17:50 hrs**

**Closing remarks**

**18:00 hrs**

**End of the video conference**