

**Minutes of the Eighty-fifth meeting
22 May 2026 (via videoconference)**

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Opening and update by the ECDC Director

1. Piotr Kramarz, Chief Scientist, ECDC, welcomed the participants and recalled that the meeting had been postponed from its initial date due to ongoing public health emergencies.
2. Pamela Rendi-Wagner, Director, ECDC, also welcomed the participants. The director reported that the ongoing hantavirus outbreak on a Dutch cruise ship continued to be monitored and highlighted that its management demonstrated strong EU coordination and collaboration, including with international partners. She underlined that the response illustrated the effectiveness of post-pandemic tools under the strengthened ECDC mandate, notably the EU Health Task Force and EU reference laboratories, as well as the need for a rapid European response. She thanked Member States for their cooperation.
3. The director also informed participants of the parallel ECDC response to an Ebola outbreak in DRC (caused by the Bundibugyo virus), noting that the Agency was operating in two public health emergency modes simultaneously. She emphasised that the situation remained rapidly evolving, requiring continuous monitoring, close coordination with Member States and partners, and regular updates to risk assessments and recommendations. The risk to EU/EEA citizens living in or travelling to affected areas was assessed as low, subject to adherence to appropriate safety measures. The overall risk for the EU population was assessed as very low.
4. Referring to the main agenda item, the director recalled that the development of EU surveillance standards builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and is linked to the cross-border health threats regulation. She stressed that the process should ensure added value for public health action and highlighted the importance of timely progress in view of the upcoming new EU Multiannual Financial Framework, and in order to support future discussions on resources for surveillance capacities. The director noted that consultations had already taken place with the Management Board, the Coordinating Competent Bodies and national focal points, and emphasised that the development of the standards is a co-creation process with Member States. She indicated that further discussions would follow, including after the summer, and invited participants to provide their views.

Adoption of the programme

5. The draft programme was adopted with no amendments and there were no verbal declarations of interest.

Adoption of the draft minutes from the 84th meeting of the Advisory Forum (17-18 February 2026)

6. The draft minutes had been circulated, and no amendments were requested. The draft minutes of the 84th AF meeting were therefore adopted.

Objectives, process and methodology of establishing surveillance standards

7. ECDC presented the objectives, process and methodology for the development of EU surveillance standards in line with Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 and invited the AF members to provide strategic advice on the proposed approach, including its scope, feasibility and timeline.
8. ECDC recalled that the standards are intended to support the surveillance objectives set out in the Regulation, including monitoring trends, detecting cross-border threats and informing public health action. It was emphasised that the approach is based on defining minimum data requirements and agreed indicators necessary to achieve these objectives at both EU and Member State level.
9. ECDC explained that the revised methodological approach starts from surveillance objectives rather than disease-specific requirements and aims to establish cross-cutting standards applicable across diseases. The standards would cover key elements of indicator-based, event-based and, where relevant, molecular surveillance, while ensuring coherence and proportionality.
10. Following feedback from Member States and governing bodies, ECDC presented a revised approach moving away from detailed disease-specific standards towards a more strategic and flexible framework. A distinction would be made between legally binding minimum requirements and

complementary non-binding guidance, allowing for further technical development outside the legislative framework.

11. ECDC outlined a revised consultation process involving disease networks, national focal points for surveillance and the Advisory Forum, with consultations to be conducted in parallel to ensure consistency, public health relevance and feasibility across disease areas. Further written consultation was foreseen following the summer.

12. The AF members were informed that the timeline had been accelerated, with the objective of completing the development phase by the end of 2026 to allow the legislative process to proceed in due time. It was highlighted that this timeline is linked to the preparation of the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, where timely adoption of the delegated act could support discussions on EU funding to strengthen surveillance capacities.

13. In the discussion, AF members broadly supported the revised approach, in particular the focus on minimum surveillance standards and the move towards a more strategic and cross-cutting framework. The importance of ensuring feasibility across Member States was emphasised, taking into account differences in infrastructure and capacity.

14. The AF members stressed the need to strike an appropriate balance between ambition and practicality, ensuring that legally binding standards focus on essential "need to have" elements, while more detailed or resource-intensive components could be addressed through guidance or complementary work. The importance of maintaining flexibility in surveillance systems, including adapting reporting frequency and data requirements to evolving situations, was also highlighted.

15. It was further noted that the development of surveillance standards presents an opportunity to strengthen coordination, improve comparability of data across Member States and support more harmonised public health action. In this context, the standards could also provide a clearer legal basis for national authorities to advocate for strengthened investment in surveillance systems.

16. AF members also highlighted that, if aligned with the relevant timelines, the process could create opportunities for EU-level support to Member States, including through the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, while noting that overly ambitious or insufficiently prioritised requirements could risk placing a disproportionate burden on Member States.

17. Considerations were raised regarding the scope of minimum surveillance data, including the potential added value of capturing additional variables to better reflect population risk factors and support targeted interventions, while recognising the need for agreement across Member States and compliance with data protection principles, including proportionality.

18. Overall, members considered the development of EU surveillance standards as an important opportunity to strengthen and further harmonise surveillance systems at EU level, supported the proposed consultation process, and emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum in view of the upcoming legislative and financial timelines.

Any other business

19. Piotr Kramarz, Chief Scientist, ECDC, closed the meeting, thanking all the AF members for their time and advice.

Annex: List of participants

Member State	Representative	Status
Austria	Bernhard Benka	Member
Czechia	Jan Kynčl	Member
Estonia	Kärt Sõber	Member
Finland	Otto Helve	Member
France	Bruno Coignard	Member
Germany	Viviane Bremer	Alternate
Hungary	Ágnes Dánielisz	Member
Ireland	Éamonn O'Moore	Alternate
Latvia	Jurijs Perevoščikovs	Member
Lithuania	Jurgita Pakalniškienė	Member
Luxembourg	Isabel de la Fuente García	Member
Malta	Tanya Melillo	Alternate
Romania	Adriana Pistol	Member
Slovakia	Jana Kerlik	Alternate
Spain	Fernando Simón Soria	Member
Sweden	Anneli Carlander	Alternate
Observers		
Norway	Preben Aavitsland	Member
European Commission Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)		
The Norwegian Research Centre	Arinze Stanley Okoli	Member
The European Institute of Women's Health	Rebecca Moore	Alternate

the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region	John Middleton	Alternate
European Commission		
DG SANTÉ	Dirk Meusel	
DG SANTÉ	Laura Gillini	
WHO Europe		
Marc-Alain Widdowson		