

# PRESS INFORMATION



## **Progress continues on EU pandemic preparedness: health officials meet in Stockholm to review national plans**

Stockholm, 18 September 2006.

Health officials from 18 EU and EEA / EFTA Member States meet in Stockholm this week to review their national preparedness plans against an influenza pandemic and discuss how preparedness can be further strengthened. Two sets of meetings organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) will take place between 18 and 22 September, the first (18-20 September) bringing together officials from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, the second (20-22 September) bring together officials from Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Slovenia and Spain. The EU and WHO have, since March 2005, organised a series of pan-European workshops bringing together 50 or more European countries to discuss pandemic preparedness – the most recent of these was held in Uppsala, Sweden on 15-17 May this year. The meetings being organised by ECDC this week are designed to enable a more in-depth discussion of operational issues than is possible at the larger workshops. Topics to be discussed will include indicators of pandemic preparedness, key challenges for strengthening preparedness and interoperability of national plans. A further meeting, bringing together officials from France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and UK is planned for December.

### **Further information**

<http://ecdc.europa.eu>

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