



RESOLUTION:

THE EBOLA OUTBREAK SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents
In Athens, Greece, on the 6th of the December 2014

Acknowledging:

- The current Ebola outbreak affecting the West Africa region is the worst such outbreak in recorded history and continues to spread;
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Ebola a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, calling for a coordinated international response;
- The Ebola outbreak is not only a medical and humanitarian catastrophe but also has an impact on the economy, trade, finance and public security;
- Ebola poses the greatest risk to European citizens who are currently present in the affected countries, most notably to health staff and volunteers trying to prevent the spread of Ebola;
- The fact that the symptoms of Ebola can have a delayed effect and that an individual can fall ill after the threat appears to be over;
- Since the Ebola outbreak was officially declared on 22 March 2014 in Guinea, it has affected more than 15,000 people and has caused nearly 7,000 deaths (latest available information by the World Health Organisation, also in the ACP-EU resolution). All districts of Liberia and Sierra Leone have now been affected. Of those, a total of 521 healthcare workers have been affected, of which 272 have died;
- The WHO's extensive investigations to determine the cause of infection in each case. Its prevention and quality assurance checks are underway as well as its ongoing efforts to ensure ample supply of equipment and facilities to fight the outbreak;
- That when an outbreak is detected, the WHO is able to respond by supporting surveillance, community engagement, case management, laboratory services, contact tracing, infection control, logistical support and training and assistance with safe burial practices;
- That the European Commission has been actively engaged from the very start of the outbreak, has been scaling up its response to the epidemic, and monitors the situation through its Emergency Response Coordination

Centre. Together with its Member States the total EU contribution amounts to over €1.1 bn;

- That an EU Task Force on Ebola was established, and Commissioner Christos Stylianides was appointed by the EU Council as EU Ebola Response Coordinator. Commissioner Stylianides visited the affected region in November 2014 in order to assess the needs and gaps in EU efforts to contain the outbreak.

YEPP calls on the EU, Member States and neighbouring countries to:

- Share best practice and experience in preparedness and response planning;
- Promote the interoperability of national preparedness planning;
- The Political and Security Committee (PSC) to prepare in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS) a civil crisis management operation to the most Ebola vulnerable territories in Africa. The security of the operation should be met with sufficient military personnel.
- Activate networks specialised in securing safe hospital facilities to treat Ebola cases while trying to lower the risks to the surrounding facilities near to zero;
- Activate networks for high security laboratories to ensure all Member States can access such laboratories to diagnose Ebola Virus Disease (EVD);
- Endorse information for travellers, published in all EU languages, using various information sources such as media messages across European networks and printed information in all EU international airports.
- Undertake concrete actions in creating specialised groups composed of medical staff to treat Ebola. Work on procedures to facilitate the presence of these groups in as many facilities as possible such as airports, cross country borders, in flights entering EU from Ebola diagnosed/identified countries etc.
- Support countries suffering from the Ebola outbreak in countries which need capacity within their health systems and medical personnel in order to prevent the outbreak from escalating.
- Endorse a case definition allowing for identification of Ebola cases in the EU.
- Prioritise political action that encourages cooperation to prevent outbreaks in “peace” time and facilitates actors like the WHO to act early without fear of reprimand.
- Build upon humanitarian aid efforts, in particular taking into account determined actions undertaken by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, and significantly step up development cooperation efforts, especially when it comes to supporting and strengthening health systems in affected countries in the long term;

- Ensure that the 20 percent benchmark for basic health and social services in the EDF's National Indicative Programmes for the next programming cycle is respected.