



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF TRUST

TIC Council Webinar

Reopening the economy and improving long term resilience post
COVID-19

7 June 2021



Reopening the economy and improving long term resilience post COVID-19



Speakers



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Public Health
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Moderator



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Audience Question



Post your answer in the chat box, yes or no:

Do you consider the current COVID-19 pandemic to be over?





John F. Ryan Public
Health Director
DG SANTE
European Commission



Reopening the economy and improving long term resilience post COVID-19

How Europe has organised itself to respond to Covid in public health, and next steps

John F. Ryan

Public Health Director, European Commission

At the beginning

- First efforts to evaluate threat in EU health security Committee.
- Immediate problem after cases explode in Lombardy and spread from there
- Crisis quickly multiplied with waves of severe illness and deaths, border closures, travel restrictions, shortages of personal protective equipment, ventilators and break in pharmaceutical supply chains from Asia
- Joint procurement launched at EU level for PPE, ventilators, and intensive care medicines and direct purchases of same products using EU own funds with donation to member states
- Green lanes to open up internal borders for essential goods traffic

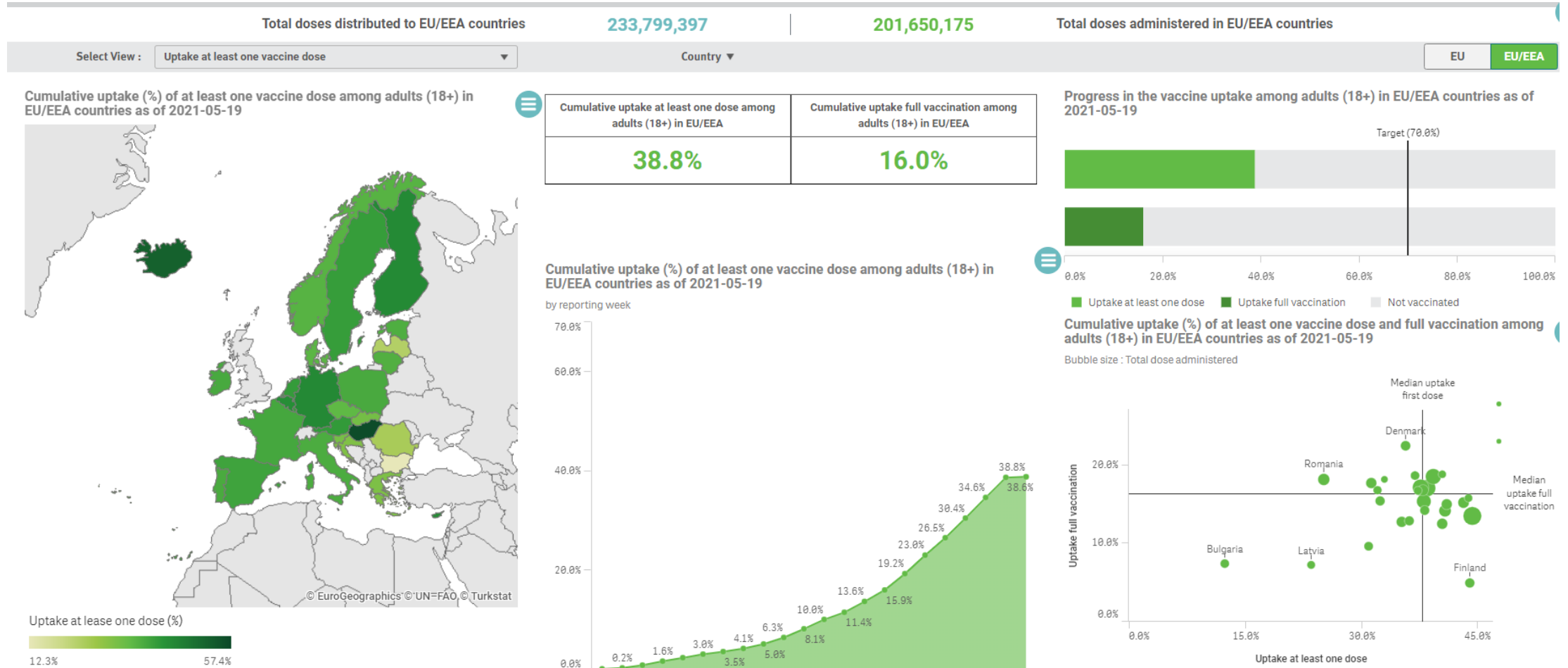
Vaccines

- Commission proposed strategy on vaccines in June 2020:
 - Europe should encourage research into vaccine creation and industrial production in EU
 - Europe should assess the safety and efficacy of these vaccines through the European Medicines Agency
 - Europe should negotiate with producers of potential vaccines to support their research and manufacture, and to reserve quantities in case they would be approved on the EU market
 - Finally, EU member states should not buy the same vaccines in parallel and each member state should pay themselves for the vaccines delivered on a pro rata basis

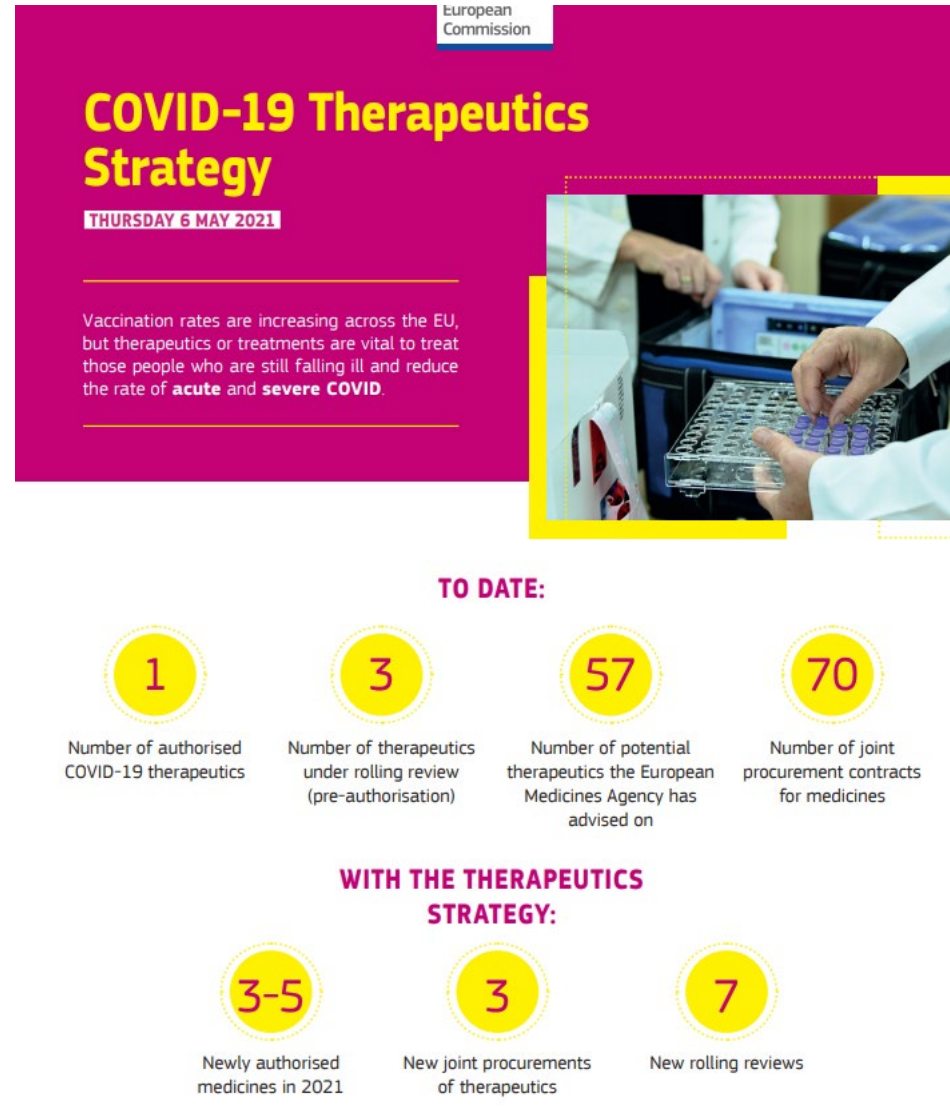
Implementation of the vaccines strategy

- Negotiations with six companies initially
- Four vaccines have been approved by the European Medicines Agency and are covered by EU advance purchase and being delivered now in Member states
- We are currently negotiating for the EU the purchase of new vaccines aimed at the new variants

Situation today in Europe



Therapeutics



Additional measures

- Co-ordination of internal and external frontiers (Council Recommendations) based on ECDC maps
- Proposed Digital green pass: vaccination certificate, testing certificate, recovery certificate
- Platform at EU level for exchange of contact tracing information (App)
- Platform for exchange of passenger locator card data
- European Medicines Agency tracking tool for pharma products in short supply
- Strong research investment into new vaccines and therapies for Covid

WHO, G7, G20, Pandemic Treaty

- Review of WHO performance completed
- Pandemic response subject of G7 and G20 discussions
- Launch of pandemic treaty being discussed

Lessons learnt

- European Commission proposed reinforcement of EU legislation on cross border health threats
- Proposed reinforcement of mandates of European centre for disease prevention and control and of European Medicines agency
- New financial resources including:
 - EU4 Health programme with budget of 5.1 Billion € over 7 years
 - EU research programme with budget of 7.7 Billion € over 7 years
 - EU Recovery package with budget of 750 Billion €

International



EU Global response to COVID-19

MARCH 2021

Global cooperation and solidarity is paramount to effectively fight the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure early access to vaccines, diagnostics and treatments everywhere.

No one will be safe until everyone is safe.

This is why the EU has been leading the multilateral response to make sure no one is left behind. The health security and start of a sustainable global recovery depend on it.



CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE

Commission launches **Coronavirus Global Response** in May 2020 to mobilise funds for research and development of tests, treatments and vaccines, strengthen health systems and the global recovery

close to **€16 billion** pledged

ACT-ACCELERATOR

The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator was launched at the end of April 2020 by the WHO, the EU and global health organizations to:

- Accelerate development of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments
- Ensure equitable global access
- Strengthen health systems

ACT-A brings together governments, scientists, civil society, charities and global health organizations.

€9.1 billion pledged

COVAX

Vaccine pillar of ACT-A, co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, CEPI and WHO

€5.18 billion pledged

Over **€2.2 billion** from the EU's TEAM EUROPE

brings us closer to COVAX's objective to deliver at least 1.3 billion doses for lower income countries by end of 2021



EU VACCINE-SHARING MECHANISM

- Will allow 27 Member states to share EU purchased doses with third countries, including through COVAX
- EU has secured 2.6 billion doses from six vaccine producers for Europe, with the possibility to share with other countries, in particular the Western Balkans, the EU's Neighbourhood and Africa



STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS

- We need to make progress with global vaccination and prepare health systems for future pandemics, especially in the most vulnerable countries
- EU has invested over €1.1 billion to strengthen health systems in 13 African countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea Bissau, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan, Zimbabwe



G20 Health Summit In Rome, co-hosted by Italy and the EU on 21 May 2021

G20 Leaders, international and regional organisation heads and representatives of global health bodies will share lessons learned from the pandemic and agree principles supporting further cooperation and joint action preventing future global health crisis, irrespective of origin and in spirit of solidarity.



European
Commission



Chiara Giovannini
Deputy Secretary General
ANEC



Raising standards for consumers

ANEC views on reopening the economy and improving long term resilience post COVID-19

TIC Council Virtual Panel
7 June 2021

Chiara Giovannini

Senior Programme Manager
Deputy-Secretary General

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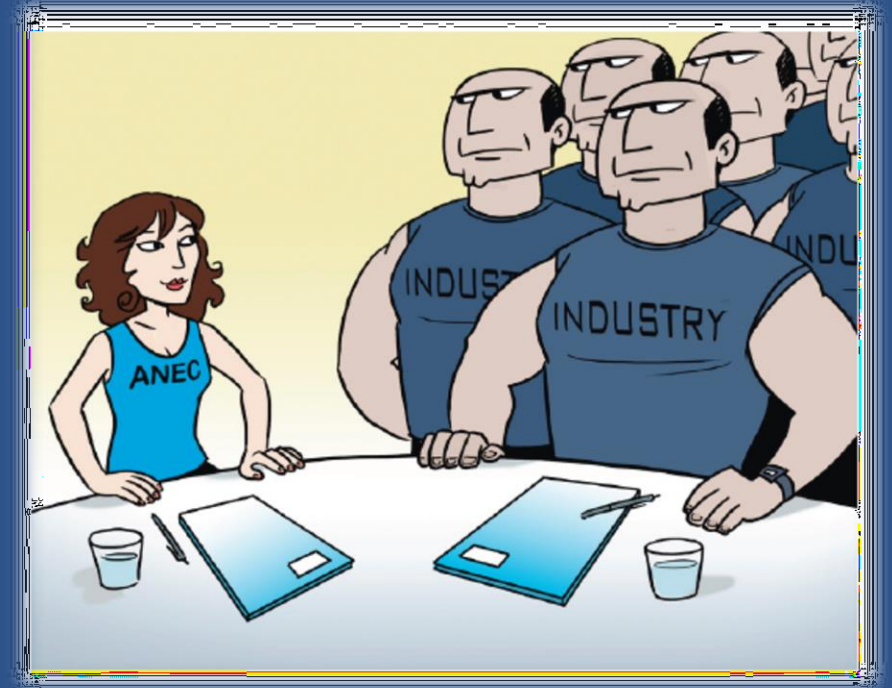
ANEC...



has provided the collective European voice since 1995:

'The European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation'

(or 'The European consumer voice in standardisation')



Trustworthy products and services for consumers



- Without confident consumers, the demand for the products & services of business will not be optimised.
- Trust and confidence are what legislation and standards can do for consumers. But it sets the bar of expectations very high as trust is deserved, not earned.
- A market is based on demand and offer, consumer trust is at heart of the demand side, by deserving and ensuring this trust, the market can have a positive impact on society and the environment. We have the regulatory and technical tools for this to happen and we need to keep them effective and up to date to meet new needs and expectations.
- Despite the horrible consequences of COVID-19, safety laws and standards have proven key to protecting society in an emergency situation, and can do so in the new normal ahead. An inclusive European Standardisation System, which facilitates the participation of consumers and provides them with an effective voice, helps ensure standards can play such a role.
- Standards on face-covering, safety of tourism provision, etc can be useful as there is a need for all stakeholders to have clear guidance in times of uncertainties.

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ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.

Thank You!

European association for the coordination of
consumer representation in standardisation aisbl

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Gilles Martin
CEO, Eurofins

Restarting the economy



The TIC industry must be a reliable partner to all stakeholders (businesses, authorities, general population) to restart the economy and continue the fight against Sars-CoV-2 and new pathogens.

Fighting the current pandemic

- It is only with consistent implementation of safety measures and frequent testing that all sectors will be able to keep their customers and clients safe and thus enable normal operations – especially so long as only a part of the population is vaccinated

Monitoring in an increasingly endemic situation

- Testing (both clinical and non-clinical testing) will remain an important factor as the virus becomes more and more endemic, even as vaccines are rolled out

Staying vigilant and preventing the next pandemic of Sars-CoV-2 variants & new pathogens

- New immune escape variants may arise against which existing vaccines or antibody immunity may be less efficient. Substantial sequencing / testing efforts are needed to quickly identify such variants and prevent them from spreading beyond initial clusters



Environmental Monitoring for SARS-CoV-2: An invaluable tool for relaunching operations safely



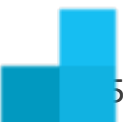
- Clinical testing will still play an important role, but environmental monitoring is a vital strategy for sites to **prevent large outbreaks** by detecting SARS-CoV-2 early
- **Affordable, easily organized, and non-invasive** alternative to frequent employee clinical testing
- **Highly effective** - wastewater testing can detect SARS-CoV-2 when infection rate is as low as 2-10 infections per 10,000 people, and up to one week before symptoms develop.



Case Studies: Protecting essential supply chains



- The leading food testing laboratory in Denmark, operated by a TIC member, is depended on by the country's primary dairies and slaughterhouses – any supply chain disruption would be catastrophic
- Regular **surface testing, wastewater testing** and **worn mask testing** was implemented from June 2020
- Ready-to-use surface sampling kits require no expertise and produce same day results
- Infections were detected early and isolated, safeguarding production – all cases were **asymptomatic but potentially contagious**.



Case Studies – Environmental Monitoring



- **Call centre** – Surface testing samples from an employee’s workstation and high-touch shared areas showed the presence of SARS-CoV-2, **five days before infection was confirmed** by human testing. Follow-up surface testing showed that current cleaning protocols were insufficient.
- **Elderly residence** – Quick-turnaround environmental testing identified positive cases on two occasions, protecting the most vulnerable from further outbreak.
- **Transport** – Surface testing on public transport and private aviation found no traces and boosted customer confidence.

Timeline:

Day 0 – Surface samples collected and sent to laboratory

Day 1 – Samples tested and reported positive

Day 4 – Sick employee is tested for COVID-19

Day 6 – Employee confirms positive for COVID-19



Helping the travel industry to restart



- Supporting major airlines, cruise companies, airports and booking agents to test staff and/or passengers
- Helping to reopen borders with confidence through IATA Travel Pass
- Surface testing onboard to evaluate cleaning protocols and restore customer confidence
- Global sampling sites, mobile lab units, and at-home self-sampling PCR kits to avoid bottlenecks at airports
- Full end-to-end IT Solutions, usable in multiple countries and interconnected with government and airline systems



Continued surveillance to detect COVID-19 reoccurrences and new pandemics



- Variants of Concern currently threaten to stall the reopening of some economies, and we can expect additional **new variants** in the future. Regulators and the TIC industry should team up to address this challenge together in a **clear and transparent framework**
- Ramp-up of fast, high-throughput **Next Generation Sequencing** (NGS) for detailed reporting and end-to-end surveillance of virus mutations
- **PCR tests with immediate detection of current Variants of Concern**, for focused isolation, contact tracing and vaccination– the TIC industry must **constantly develop** new PCR tests as new variants arise
- It's already possible to deliver **variant-discriminating results in under two hours** – NGS takes several days and is best used in epidemiological studies
- Virus variant distinction technology should also increasingly be included in **wastewater, food and environmental surfaces** tests.



TIC Council Policy Recommendations



1. Cover any regulatory or legislative gaps to address sanitary risks following a risk-based approach.
2. Promote the development of protocols and trainings, so that organizations have clear implementing instructions for the requirements according to their specific needs.
3. Integrate third-party sanitary inspections to regulatory requirements to help ensure proper implementation by organizations and their staff.
4. Improve regulatory certainty for organizations implementing sanitary protocols, by setting clear conditions upon they could relaunch activities after a crisis or remain operational.
5. Ensure continuous monitoring through preemptive environmental & clinical PCR testing to ensure operational continuity and faster response to outbreaks.
6. Continue rigorous PPE testing.



Questions?



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Wikipedia page:
Testing, inspection and
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