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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Seminar on Epidemiological Surveillance Platforms of 22 March 2022

Delegations will find in the annex a Presidency background note on the above subject, which will be discussed under 'Any other business' at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 24 May 2022.

Seminar on Epidemiological Surveillance Platforms of 22 March 2022

Recent events in relation to public health have highlighted the importance of having effective surveillance systems in place for the early detection and monitoring of health hazards, in order to prevent diseases and limit their spread. To achieve this, it is essential to break down silos between sectors and surveillance disciplines, based on a One Health approach.

With that in mind, on 22 March 2022, during the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the French authorities hosted a seminar on epidemiological surveillance platforms. In France, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in close collaboration with the other ministries involved in the One Health approach, plays a central role in the management of these platforms, which are multi-partner and multi-disciplinary collaborative spaces dedicated to epidemiological surveillance in animal health and plant health and food chain surveillance.

Held in a hybrid format, the conference brought together a range of European and French public and private stakeholders. It was attended by 150 people in Paris and 280 others connected online throughout the day.

The various sections of the conference got up and running with the platforms presenting work illustrating the collaboration between public and private stakeholders, then turned to the governance of surveillance in Europe, and finally illustrated the opportunities offered by research for surveillance in the future, such as tools for early diagnosis and prioritisation.

The comments and discussions that followed highlighted the importance of having effective, adaptable and responsive surveillance systems to enable risk managers to act on warning signs. Participants pointed out in particular the need to have systems that are able to detect outbreaks early, to transmit useful, high-quality data between stakeholders, to train stakeholders at all levels and allocate resources to ensure the functioning of collective intelligence.

Epidemiological surveillance platforms thus provide a space for cooperation, for all private and public stakeholders, aiming to improve the coherence of health surveillance measures and optimise their costs. Promoted by France, this original governance model is highly relevant in the context of the One Health approach, as it is based on collaboration between stakeholders, sectors and disciplines, and fosters ongoing efforts to empower all those involved in surveillance.

In summary, the day highlighted the importance of health surveillance at national and European level, with flexible arrangements to be implemented to share roles and responsibilities in a balanced way, putting collaboration between stakeholders at the heart of the system, for an ever more efficient One Health approach to surveillance.