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General Secretariat

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**Brussels, 16 February 2021**

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### WORKING PAPER

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### **WORKING DOCUMENT**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (HTA)

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**Subject:** Informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices on 19 February 2021  
- Flash from the Presidency

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Delegations will find enclosed the Presidency Flash for the informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices scheduled for 19 February 2021. The draft agenda is set out in CM 1654/21.



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## **Presidency Flash**

### **Virtual Meeting of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices**

**Friday 19 February 2021**

**2:30 pm - 6:00 pm**

Brussels, 16 February 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the seventh meeting of the members of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices under the Portuguese Presidency. The meeting will be held in a virtual format from 2:30 pm to 6.00 pm. The provisional agenda has been circulated and is available in the Delegates Portal as document CM 1654/21.

We would like to use this meeting to present to you the revised Presidency compromise text (document 6057/21) on Health Technology Assessment, which is based on the comments received on the previous Presidency compromise text (document 5362/21).

This meeting is intended to be the last occasion to go through the text at Working Party level.

Tremendous efforts have been made to reflect, to the best possible extent, the views expressed by Delegations during the last discussions. The Presidency believes that the last text is well balanced and hopes that it can meet the Working Party's broad support.

Therefore, the Presidency would like to use this meeting for a last discussion on the remaining two important open issues, (i) the scope and (ii) the voting system, in order to further fine tune the text if necessary before moving it to COREPER with a view to obtaining a mandate to enter into negotiations with the European Parliament.

In the case you have any points that you wish to raise under AOB, please do not hesitate to contact the Presidency and the Council Secretariat.



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**Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU**

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**Regulation amending Regulation (EC) n.º 851/2004 establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

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**Regulation on Health Technology Assessment and regulation on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices**

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☀️ With the Portuguese Presidency bringing forward the motto "*Time to Deliver*", alongside the stress and workload caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Portuguese Health Team decided to present you with some sights of our country during each Working Party. Hopefully it can contribute to cheer you up and, who knows, maybe even provide you with some inspiration for the next and well deserved vacation period.

### Castelo Branco



**Historical/Fun Facts:** Birth place of our Pharma Chair, ██████████ Castelo Branco is one of the main towns that was part of the old Portuguese fortification scheme on the 1200km border with Spain. With its creation dating back to the Roman Empire, Castelo Branco preserves a charming medieval streets in the centre, and tree-flanked boulevards. One of its traditional craftsmanship pieces - *colchas* ("bedspreads") - are inspired by similar items brought back from India and China by early Portuguese explorers, with even a small piece being able to cost more than a thousand euros.



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