



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 15 April 2021

Interinstitutional files:

2018/0018 (COD)

2020/0320 (COD)

WK 5069/2021 INIT

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (General)
Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (HTA)

Subject: Informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical devices on 20 April 2021
- Flash from the Presidency

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 20 April 2021. The draft agenda is set out in CM 2701/21.



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Presidency Flash

Virtual Meeting of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

10:00 am - 1:30 pm / 3 pm - 6:00 pm

Brussels, 15 April 2021

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the sixteenth meeting of the members of the Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices under the Portuguese Presidency. This meeting will be dedicated to the proposal on the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and to the trilogue preparations on the proposal on Health Technology Assessments (HTA). It will be held in a virtual format from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The agenda has been circulated and is available in the Delegates Portal as document CM 2701/21.

The meeting will start with a discussion on the **topic of the 'liaison officers'** as part of the EU Task Force to be established by the ECDC, as proposed by the delegations at the WP of the 13th of April, with the participation of a representative from the Agency. Alongside that, we will discuss the remainder of the proposal, namely **Articles 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 31.**

We also welcome very much any **written comments** you may have on the overall chapters, as well as on the specific articles discussed until **23 April COB.**

In the afternoon, with a view to prepare for the trilogues on HTA regulation, we will present to the delegations our understanding on the flexibility to accept EP amendments, based on the four columns table. The Presidency will then open the floor for discussion.

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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- ✦ 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.

Alto Douro Wine Region



Historical Facts: Douro is one of the world's oldest wine regions and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A large number of grape varieties grow in the Douro region, most of them local Portuguese grapes, typically referred to as "Douro Wines". Since the 18th century, its main product, Port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural vineyards landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution, being a wine-producing destination. The grapes are harvested manually and even the most modern wineries do not exclude the people in the harvest period and for the grape-stomping process. Before the roads and the railways, the Douro Wine Estates were only accessible by river and the "Rabelo boats", which were created to transport barrels of wine and survive the strong currents of the Douro river.

