



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Health systems, medical products and innovation  
**European Reference Networks and Digital Health**

Brussels,

SANTE.DDG1.B3/IMG/AEJ/el(2020)3480170

**Subject: Reply to your email of 19 May 2020**

Dear Dr. de Deus,

On behalf of Commission President von der Leyen, I would like to thank you for your email of 19 May 2020, and I would like to apologise for our delayed response. We are currently facing a public health crisis of an unprecedented scale in the form of the global pandemic of COVID-19. Therefore, I would also like to thank you for your willingness to help combat the disease.

The Commission is currently working to support our Member States in the fight against COVID-19 through [a series of actions](#) in areas such as public health, mobility and transport, economy, crisis management and research and innovation, including [actions on research data](#) and initiatives for [research on a vaccine for COVID-19](#). You may possibly also be interested in the [Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures](#).

Among other initiatives, the Commission also established the [COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System](#) (COVID19-CMSS) to support communication between clinicians dealing with COVID-19 across the EU. The CMSS provides a database of registered clinicians, which includes more than 520 clinicians located in more than 250 hospitals across 28 countries (26 EU Member States, the United Kingdom and Norway). The CMSS organises a [series of webinars](#) to support clinicians and other healthcare professionals in the frontline of COVID-19 patient care. These webinars provide the expertise and recommendations of some of the experts of the 24 ERNs for the management of some of the more complex cases of patients suffering at the same time of COVID-19 and a rare or complex disease or conditions.

If well-coordinated and compliant with data protection rules, digital tools can play an important role in fighting the disease and also in the gradual lifting of containment measures. The Commission is also collaborating with Member States through the [eHealth Network](#) to identify specific requirements in the area of digital health, including [mobile applications for contact tracing](#). On the registries for COVID-19, the Commission is working with Member States through the eHealth Network to share experiences and best practices regarding COVID-19 health data coding and reporting, which can contribute to the search for better diagnosis and treatment techniques to overcome the health crisis.

In relation to this work, I would be grateful if you could share with us, for information, some written documentation on the EU-wide concept that you are working on, if that would be possible. We have also been contacted by other European medical associations

in this regard, e.g. the CPME and Austrian Medical Association. I would appreciate if you could please clarify whether these concepts, or initiatives, are related in any way.

More broadly, the Commission is focusing on advancing in the digital transformation of healthcare, particularly for the creation of a common European Health Data Space as set out in the [European data strategy](#), in order to achieve better healthcare outcomes, better research and innovation, and better policy-making.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to refer you to the official [website](#) on Public Health of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, where you can find more information on the activities of the European Commission in the area of health.

Yours sincerely,

*(e-signed)*

Ioana-Maria Gligor