Resolution on the strategy against an influenza pandemic

2005/2627(RSP) - 07/11/2005

The Council was briefed by the Commission on the situation regarding the propagation of avian influenza and a possible influenza pandemic. It took note of a progress report on work on the preparation of an EU action plan and on the provision of assistance to third countries.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

In its conclusions, the Council welcomed the productive work that had taken place to date. It noted that the Health Ministers' Informal concluded that effective co-ordination between EU Member States was essential; that clear, calm and consistent communication was key; and that international co-operation forward to a further discussion of this issue at the 9 December Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs).

The Council welcomed the initial paper on principles and priorities to guide the provision of assistance to third countries, and the continuing work in collaboration with the Commission to develop a comprehensive plan on the avian influenza and human influenza pandemic threats, as compiled by the Presidency, and discussed by Member States at the 28 October meeting of the Presidency Group. The Council looks forward to the completion of the comprehensive Plan as soon as possible.

The Council also welcomed the Commission's and Member States' emphasis on the needs of third countries and the need for the Commission and Member States to act in support of the roles, mandates and priorities of the relevant multilateral organisations (FAO, OIE, WHO).

The Council once again agreed that it would keep the situation under review and return to it if the situation required it.